MI TOWN

"Boots, Chaps and Cowboy Hats" was a very appropriate theme for last week's Polk County Fair and was lots of fun for everyone. By now, the 4-H kids are putting their ribbons and awards in scrapbooks, proudly displaying their photographs and sharing the wonderful memories with their families and friends. Thanks to the members of the staff who keep things humming along smoothly all year long and especially during my favorite Polk County event. This year's fair was outstanding in every way.

We so enjoyed our day at the fair, seeing friends and neighbors and sharing happy conversations. Local writer Sonja Ely told us of all the changes she'd seen inside of the main exhibits

Keith, went to a conference

in Portland. After that, they

went to Payette Lake near

McCall, Idaho, for a week's

vacation with the whole

family. Now they're back to

cutting wood at home.



building, where we saw Commissioner Mike Ainsworth who suggested we "buy one of everything." Diane Ostrom was busy with her 4-Hers as the floral exhibits were being assembled and judged, and we were impressed with the beautiful flower arrangements inside.

The FFA corn was superb as usual and we found a patch of shade beside the Polk County Sheriff's boat, which was a perfect spot to enjoy watching curious and interested kids learn many

good things about services the deputies provide to all of us. We admired the fruit and vegetables that were beautifully grown by Morris Johnson and others, hoping that we could duplicate these in our own backyard garden.

It was fun to meet and to talk with Diane Nordyke, who was sitting among the beautiful quilt and sewing displays, and to see such wonderful work by Bonnie Nelson whose expertise in quilting and embroidery was rewarded by several awards. The needlework and sewing talent on display was a joy to see and enjoy.

The 4-H kids are always the highlight of the fair, and I was privileged to pet a soft little bunny that was lovingly cared for by a young 4-H girl, who was very informative about her animal. Later I discovered she had written a poem about that bunny, who she loved very much. Just being in the barns with the young girls and boys involved with 4-H and FFA reinforces our belief that the future of Polk County is in good hands. Those of us empty-nesters whose grandchildren are now adults could all benefit from a day at the fair, and a glimpse of this generation who are bright and inquisitive and learning so many good things.

Our last stop before heading for home was the ice cream wagon, where we had a great chat with Hope and Bella, who brought their grandma Ann Sickles to enjoy a day in the sunshine. What a wonderful way to spend an August afternoon.

COMMUNITY **CALENDAR**

Continued from page 8A

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 24

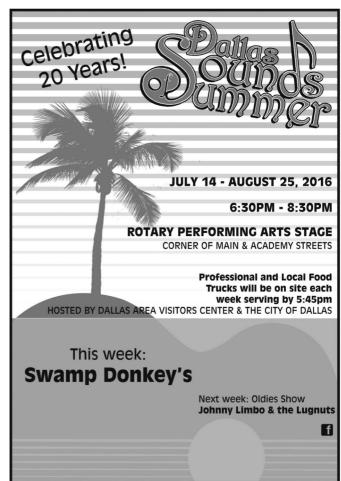
• Helping Hands Emergency Food Bank — 10 a.m. to noon, Monmouth Christian Church, 959 Church St. W., Monmouth. For eligible community members; available every Wednesday. 541-404-6517.

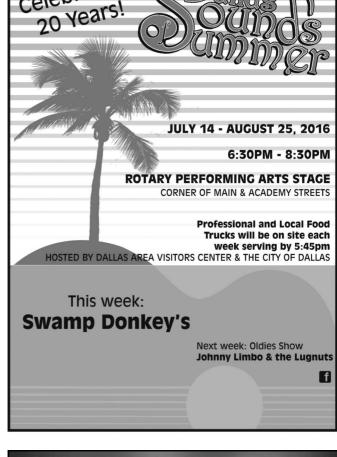
 Willamette Valley Food Assistance Program Food Bank 1:30 to 6:30 p.m., 888 Monmouth Cutoff Road, Building E, Dallas. Weekly distribution for eligible community members. 503-831-5634.

• 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.

Music in the Park — 6:30 p.m., Main Street Park, Monmouth. Jacob Miller and the Bridge City Crooners, swing. Free. www.ci.monmouth.or.us.









Lawn Seating — Bring blankets & chairs

This Week's FREE MOVIE:

Showing Aug. 18 • 8:45

ZOOTOPIA

AUG. 26 Concert: PYROMANIA

Def Leppard Experience- 8:30 PM

AUG 25 Movie: Batman vs Superman - 8:45 PM

 VENDORS • BEER & WINE GARDEN Riverview Amphitheater, Independence, OR

Visit our website: independenceamphitheater.com



Thirteen people from Pedee Church came to cut firewood on Aug. 6 for neighbors who need it. It was a great morning; they had fun and got an enormous amount of work done in short order, thanks to

Chuck Goetzinger, who coordinated the effort.

August is a good time to visit Pedee's Dancing Oaks Nursery and browse the greenhouses, explore the display gardens and bring a picnic lunch to enjoy in one of their shady seating areas.

If you've never been to the nursery before, visit the About Us page on their website for a "Bird's Eye View" video of the grounds, learn about nursery history, and read information about the people and critters that are behind the operation.

I'm on a trip right now with granddaughter, Victoria Odell, Doug and Lorraine Odell's daughter. We flew to London on Aug. 10 and spent two days there, taking in the sights before joining a bus tour through the rest of England, Scotland, and then to Ireland. We'll be circling back around to London before heading home on Monday. Paul is holding down the

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HOT AUGUST

NIGHT

August 20, 5-8pm

• BBQ Saturday

Independence Elks Lodge Café & Memorial Garden 289 S Main St, Independence

Use C St entrance and park at rear of building.



Mom has always been so patient, but now when I ask her questions she gets angry.

We can help

ADRC

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OREGON DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAM

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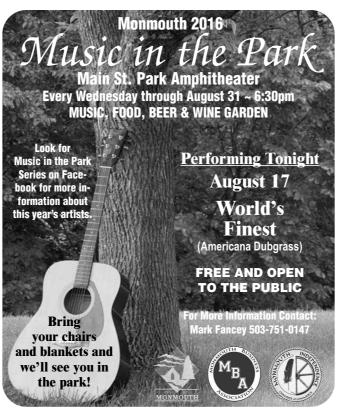
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