

# MI TOWN



**PATTY TAYLOR DUTCHER**  
Columnist

At this time of year, it seems like bazillions of articles are written about how to "survive" the holidays, and books appear on the shelves telling us how to manage to get through the weeks from Thanksgiving until New Year's Day. It doesn't help to see the Facebook pictures of perfectly decorated cookies and professionally baked cakes that are supposed to be so easy to create in your home kitchen, while wrapping perfect packages and serving a gourmet dinner to your family. All this makes me wonder why one of the most joyous times of the year creates so much stress and chaos, and why we let it happen to us, and the people we love can get lost in the madness.

Let's take time to relax with friends and enjoy

time with family without turning it into a major production. We can make a big bowl of punch and have the kids string popcorn and cranberries for the Christmas tree. We can bake cookies and make candy and share it with our friends and neighbors, and brighten somebody else's day with a smile or a special compliment. If there isn't time for baking and cooking — along with everything else — our local stores have goodies available for every taste and budget. How about a bouquet of fresh flowers to

brighten a room, or scented candles to place on a fireplace mantel where little hands or dog's tails can't reach them?

If you haven't finished with Christmas shopping and have that friend or family member who has everything, a gift card to one of MI Town's restaurants would give them the opportunity to enjoy a cup of coffee with friends or an evening out during those cold and dark days following the holidays.

We'll be saying "good-bye" to 2016 within the next couple weeks and, for some, it cannot happen soon enough. This past year has brought bad weather events, floods and fires, family tragedies for some, and a very contentious election season

that never seems to end. It has also given us sunshine and happy memories at the beaches, outdoor movies and concerts in the parks, new babies, beautiful flowers and bountiful gardens. The new addition to the Monmouth Senior Center is nearly completed and we are looking forward to the upcoming open house.

As we reflect on the end of the year, I'd like to wish Monmouth's outgoing Mayor John Oberst good wishes and "thank you," and for working closely with Independence Mayor John McArdle, who will continue to be there for his community. Thank you as well to Mark Fancey for being the absolute definition of the man who gets things done — and done well.

# PEDEE NEWS



**ARLENE KOVASH**  
Columnist

Steve and Audrey Cameron received a blessing at Thanksgiving when all five of their children and their families came home to visit. Bob and Wosa and their three youngest children flew in from Rochester, N.Y. Chris and Natasha flew up from San Francisco, and Clayton, Jennifer and Noah drove up from Andersen, Calif. Stephanie and Stephen Barth and Anastasia came from nearby Guthrie Road, and James and Jennifer and Eliana came from Milwaukie. Granddaughter Caitlin, her brother Chris, and husband and the Cameron's two great-grandkids flew from Dallas, Texas, and spent nine

days with their Grandpa and Grandma. All five Cameron kids attended Pedee school through sixth grade, and they enjoyed remembering their childhood days on the farm in Pedee.

Juandeane Skidmore went by Amtrak to visit her daughter Beth Turtle and family in Seattle, and loved traveling by train — no traffic, no worries, bever-

ages and snacks served, and the view was wonderful. She'll probably go that way more often.

Last week the high school students at the Kings Valley Charter School started up their Saturday coffee shop in the old Kings Valley church across the road from the school. It's called King's Crossing and serves coffee, tea, and baked goods every Saturday from 9-2, and is a great place to go for breakfast. In connection with the shop there are also several craft tables — a good place to check out Christmas gifts. This is their second year in business. Master cook Diana Barnhart bakes the good-

ies, including bread, in her licensed kitchen at the school, and the kids mind the store.

Two weeks ago, I went to the American Agri-Women convention in Raleigh, N.C., completing my two-year term as secretary of the organization. Of great interest to me at the meeting was speaker Mary-Dell Chilton, who was the person who led a study that produced the first genetically engineered plants. When I asked if we can be sure that GM foods are safe, she said they were natural and there is nothing about them that could be less safe than any other plant. Reassuring, to me at least.

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Continued from page 9A

## TUESDAY, DEC. 20

- **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.
- **Overeaters Anonymous** — Noon to 1 p.m., Salem Health West Valley, 525 SE Washington St., Dallas. Support group meets in the quiet room/chapel immediately inside the emergency entrance on Clay Street. Dee Ann White, 971-718-6444.

## WEDNESDAY, DEC. 21

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

# INDEPENDENCE CINEMA 8

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## Friday - Tuesday Dec. 16 - 20

OFFICE CHRISTMAS PARTY (Digital) (R)	(11:55 2:25 4:55)	7:25	9:55
COLLATERAL BEAUTY (Digital) (PG13)	(12:25 2:45 5:05)	7:25	9:45
*ROGUE ONE (Digital) (PG13)	(11:30 2:30 5:30)	8:30	
*ROGUE ONE (Digital) (PG13)	(9:30 12:30 3:30)	6:30	9:30
*ROGUE ONE (Digital) (PG13)	(10:00 1:00 4:00)	7:00	10:00
MOANA (Digital) (PG)	(11:30 2:05 4:40)	7:20	9:55
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM (Digital) (PG13)	(12:45 3:45)	6:45	9:45
THE ARRIVAL (Digital) (PG13)	(1:45 4:25)	7:05	9:50

## Wednesday - Thursday Dec. 21 - 22

OFFICE CHRISTMAS PARTY (Digital) (R)	(11:55 2:25 4:55)	7:25	9:55
PASSENGERS (Digital) (PG13)	(11:10 1:50 4:30)	7:15	9:55
SING (Digital) (PG)	(11:25 2:00 4:35)	7:10	9:45
*ROGUE ONE (Digital) (PG13)	(10:00 1:00 4:00)	7:00	10:00
*ROGUE ONE (Digital) (PG13)	(9:30 12:30 3:30)	6:30	9:30
MOANA (Digital) (PG)	(11:30 2:05 4:40)	7:20	9:55
COLLATERAL BEAUTY (Digital) (PG13)	(12:25 2:45 5:05)	7:25	9:45
ASSASSINS CREED (Digital) (PG13)	(12:35 3:40)	6:45	9:50

\* No Passes

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## Solution on Page 11A

			5	3				8
7	3							4
	5			6			1	
	6	9	1		4	3		
5								7
		2	7		1			
		3		4	5			
							8	9
6	9						4	

## Sudoku

Difficulty: ★★★★★☆

Row →	4	3	2	8	1	6	7	5	9
	5	6	9	3	7	4	8	1	2
	1	7	8	9	5	2	4	6	3
Three-by-three square →	3	4	7	2	8	5	6	9	1
	2	1	6	7	4	9	3	8	5
	9	8	5	1	6	3	2	7	4
	7	9	1	4	3	8	5	2	6
	8	5	3	6	2	1	9	4	7
	6	2	4	5	9	7	1	3	8
Column ↓									

## How to do Sudoku

Fill in the grid so the numbers 1 through 9 appear just once in every column, row, and three-by-three square. See example above.

By Ben Arnoldy

The Christian Science Monitor



## Season's Greetings

During this holiday season, we wish you all the best.



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*That one indeed is a man who, today, dedicateth himself to the service of the entire human race. The great Being saith: Blessed and happy is he that ariseth to promote the best interests of the peoples and kindreds of the earth. In another passage He hath proclaimed: It is not for him to pride himself, who loveth his own country, but rather for him who loveth the whole world. The earth is but one country, and mankind its citizens. — Bahá'u'lláh — Bahá'í Faith*

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