

MI TOWN

Mother Nature brought us a winter wonderland last week which gave us an opportunity to bundle up in layers of warm clothing, dig out those boots, and see what was going on in our world. It's always reassuring to see our city utility folks driving through the neighborhoods to be sure all is going as well as possible. Thank you for helping keep the lights on and our streets cleared and running water available at the turn of a tap, despite the rain and snow. We appreciate our newspaper and mail deliveries especially when inclement weather keeps us from venturing far from home.

At this time of year, when stormy days and nights are more frequent than not, it is somehow reassuring to me



PATTY TAYLOR DUTCHER
Columnist

to see the bright lights from the beautiful tree on the Western Oregon University campus as we drive along Highway 99. No matter how busy the day or what tasks await us in the evenings, MI Town's Christmas tree is beckoning through the rain and the fog to say, "Welcome Home," from our travels.

Home for us the past 16-plus years has been a sweet old house within walking distance of the college campus, where we love to take frequent walks with our

dogs. It's in a community where a special combination of college students and working people, newcomers and long-time residents, retirees and young children can share the experiences of life in a small town without the stress and frustration of too much traffic and too many people and too much crime activity in the big city.

In MI Town, we share more than a couple of ZIP codes with our neighbors. We get to know one another on walks around town, at the libraries, in the grocery stores, at our jobs and in local restaurants. We are all affected by what happens to people who live down the street or around the corner. We grieve one another's losses and try to help relieve their suffering. We

share our joy and happiness and congratulate each other when good things happen, because we care about each other. We share a sense of community.

We'll be celebrating Christmas with children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. We'll drive over the river and through the woods to Portland and Scappoose, where we'll share love and laughter with those we love, and share stories of college, work, as we share food and beverages, and how grateful we are to have each other in our lives. We'll talk of plans and hopes and promises of the new year to come.

May the holiday season bring everyone joy and laughter and the love of family and friends.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Community Calendar is a listing of upcoming events taking place in Polk County that are open to the public. To submit an event for calendar consideration, please send it at least two weeks before the actual event date to the Itemizer-Observer via email (ionews@polkio.com).

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.

THURSDAY, DEC. 22

- **Monmouth-Independence Rotary Club** — Noon, First Baptist Church, 1505 Monmouth St., Independence. Visiting Rotarians, guests and prospective Rotarians are welcome to these luncheon meetings. Free. 503-838-4884.
- **James2 Community Kitchen Meal** — 4:30 to 6 p.m., Dallas United Methodist Church, 565 SE LaCreole Drive, Dallas. Free; everyone welcome. 503-623-8429.

FRIDAY, DEC. 23

- **Take Off Pounds Sensibly Club Meeting** — 9:45 to 11 a.m. Church of Christ, 127 Heffley St. N., Monmouth. First meeting is free. 503-930-7936.
- **Altered Attitudes Alcoholics Anonymous** — Noon, Dallas United Methodist Church, 565 SE LaCreole Drive, Dallas. 503-399-0599.
- **Guthrie Park Acoustic Music Jam Session** — 6:30 to 10 p.m., Guthrie Park Community Center, 4320 Kings Valley Highway, Dallas. Free (donations accepted). 503-623-0809.

SATURDAY, DEC. 24

- **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, DEC. 26

- **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., Monmouth Senior Center, 180 Warren St. S., Monmouth. 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, DEC. 27

- **Indoor Play Park** — 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 879 SW Levens St., Dallas. Open to children pre-kindergarten and younger with parent/adult. Tuesdays through Fridays. Free.
- **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.
- **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. 28

- **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.
- **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.

PEDEE NEWS



ARLENE KOVASH
Columnist

Christmas is on Sunday this year and what better way to celebrate than going to church to celebrate the birth of Jesus? Pedee Church is having a community Christmas service at 10 a.m. Christmas Day and is being led by Ron Diller, whose guitar music the community has enjoyed for several years now. The children's play will be at the Christmas Eve candle lighting service at 7 the night before.

On Saturday night, Dec. 10, or early Sunday morning, someone threw a very

big rock through one of the windows at Pedee Church, hitting the Christmas tree and even denting the wall on the other side of the room and scattering glass throughout the room and into the sanctuary. It meant the church was quite cold when everyone got there, but the hole was soon

patched up with clear packing tape. If anyone reading this knows who did it, tell him (her?) the congregation prayed for him and wishes him well.

Nothing like snow days. Heather Traglia and kids had a great one. They went to the school and took the classroom guinea pig Elijah aka "Pig," home so he'd stay warm in case the power went out, then took a nap, played in the snow, made hot cocoa and popcorn, watched Christmas movies, then took more naps. It was chicken and dumplings for

dinner around a cozy fire, then another nap. Jenae, Wyatt, Lilah, and Kailey thought they were living the dream, and can't wait for the next snow days.

Dave and Suzanne reported six inches of snow, although we got more like two. It was 20 degrees here Friday morning, which meant knocking holes in the water for the cattle and working hard to get the tractor going. What did the rest of you do? Contact me at kovasha@gmail.com if your snow days were fun (or not).

LIBRARY CALENDAR

DALLAS 950 Main St. • 503-623-2633

www.ci.dallas.or.us/library

- Wednesday, Dec. 21, 4 p.m. — PAWS to READ (Davos).
- Thursday, Dec. 22, 10:30 a.m. — Children's Story Time.
- Tuesday, Dec. 27, 10:30 a.m. — Morning Children's Story Time.
- Tuesday, Dec. 27, 3:30 p.m. — Afternoon Children's Story Time.
- Wednesday, Dec. 28, 4 p.m. — Kid's Book Club ("Lowly Order of the Worms").

INDEPENDENCE 175 Monmouth St. 503-838-1811

www.ci.independence.or.us/library

- Wednesday, Dec. 21, 10:30 a.m. — Family Story Time.
- Wednesday, Dec. 21, 3 p.m. — Wacky Wednesdays (Movie, "Secret Life of Pets").
- Tuesday, Dec. 27, 5:30 p.m. — Cuentos en Español.
- Wednesday, Dec. 28, 10:30 a.m. — Family Story Time.
- Wednesday, Dec. 28, 3 p.m. — Wacky Wednesdays (Make some New Year's Fun)

MONMOUTH 168 S. Ecols St. • 503-751-0182 www.ci.monmouth.or.us/library

- Thursday, Dec. 22, 2 p.m. — Movie ("The Secret Life of Pets").
- Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2 p.m. — Movie ("The BFG").

WAGNER COMMUNITY LIBRARY
111 N. Main St., Falls City
503-787-3521, ext. 319
www.facebook.com/WagnerCommunityLibrary/timeline
• See the library's Facebook page for upcoming events.



You are invited to remember someone special.

*Now through December 23rd at Dallas Mortuary Tribute Center
287 SW Washington St.
Dallas*

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.

Because We Care,
BOLLMAN FUNERAL HOME & DALLAS MORTUARY TRIBUTE CENTER

Polk County's ONLY Family Owned Funeral Homes & On-Site Crematory
www.dallastribute.com 503.623.2325

DON'T PASS STOPPED CARS.



There could be a good reason they're stopped, like a pedestrian! A little patience could save a life — and a lifetime of regret.

Share the Road. The Way to Go. Transportation Safety — ODOT

EARLY DEADLINES

Our office will be **CLOSED Dec. 26th**

News Department:

- Social News Wedding, Engagements, Births, etc.Wednesday, Dec. 21, 4pm
- Community Events Business, School, Community NewsThursday, Dec. 22, Noon
- General News.....Thursday, Dec. 22, Noon
- Letters to the Editor/Obituaries..... Friday, Dec. 23, 10am

Advertising Department:

- LegalsThursday, Dec. 22, Noon
- Display Main news advertisements/insertsThursday, Dec. 22, Noon
- Classified Display Friday, Dec. 23, 11am
- Classified Line Ads Friday, Dec. 23, noon

Itemizer-Observer 147 SE Court St., Dallas • 503-623-2373

