

COMMUNITY NOTEBOOK

Lions Club to provide breakfast

Central's Lion Club will provide a free New Year's Day breakfast Sunday from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. at Monmouth Senior Center, 180 S. Warren St., Monmouth.

Donations will be accepted.

Arena to host New Year's Eve bash

Arena Sports Bar, 174 Main St., Independence, will hold a New Year Eve's Bash Saturday at 8 p.m.

A complimentary champagne toast will be available as they usher in the new year.

For more information: 503-838-0054.

Library to put on puppet show

Monmouth Public Library, 168 Ecols Street S., Monmouth, will host the Gingerbread Man puppet show Thursday at 10:30 a.m.

The mini-musical will feature a modern twist on the folktale.

For more information: 503-838-1932.

Scrabble with Betty at McDonalds

Scrabble with Betty will take place Jan. 4, 2017, at 1 p.m. at Independence Public Library, 175 Monmouth St., Independence.

Scrabble with Betty takes

place the first Wednesday of the month.

For more information: 503-838-1811.

Nominations for diamond due Jan. 6

Nominations for the 60th annual Dallas community awards ceremony are being accepted through Jan. 6, 2017.

Nominations may be submitted online at www.dallasoregonchamber.org/awards.

Flea Market set for New Year's Sunday

Ring in the new year by finding a treasure at the Polk County Flea Market at the Polk County Fair-

grounds, 520 S. Pacific Highway, Rickreall.

The market will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Admission is \$1. Early admission from 6 to 9 a.m. is \$5.

For more information: 503-428-8224.

Master Gardeners accepting apps

Polk County Master Gardeners are accepting applications for training through Jan. 6, 2017.

Classes will run Wednesdays from Jan. 11, 2017, through March 22, 2017, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Cost is \$100 or \$250.

For additional information please call 503-623-8395.



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. 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.

THURSDAY, DEC. 29

• **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. 30

• **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. 31

• **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.

SUNDAY, JAN. 1

• **Polk Flea Market** — 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Polk County Fairgrounds, 520 S. Pacific Highway (99W), Rickreall. Admission: \$1; children 12 and younger, free. Early admission from 6 to 9 a.m. is \$5. 503-428-8224.

MONDAY, JAN. 2

• **Relatives as Parents Support Group** — 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., St. Patrick Parish (Annex), 1265 E St., Independence. Support and education for grandparents raising grandchildren or other relatives. Meets first Monday of the month. Free, drop-ins OK. Coffee and refreshments provided. 503-606-7620.

• **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, JAN. 3

• **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, JAN. 4

• **Monmouth Business Association** — 7:30 a.m., Burgerville. A meeting of business people, the Monmouth-Independence Chamber of Commerce director, and city officials. 503-751-0147.

• **Indoor Play Park** — 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, First Presbyterian Church, 879 SW Levens St., Dallas. Drop-ins welcome. For ages infant through pre-K with parent. Free, but donations accepted. 503-623-3397.

• **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.

• **Senior meals, Dallas** — 11:30 a.m. Monday through Friday, LaCreole Manor, 204 SW Walnut St., Dallas. Free, but \$3 donation suggested. Reservations required. 503-623-6232.

• **Senior meals, Monmouth** — 11:30 a.m. Monday through Friday, Monmouth Senior Center, 180 S. Warren St., Monmouth. Free, but \$3 donation suggested. Reservations required. 503-838-2084.

• **Scrabble with Betty** — 1 p.m., Independence Public Library, 175 Monmouth St., Independence. Scrabble games first Wednesday of every month. Free; refreshments and prizes available. 503-551-7687 or 503-838-1811.

• **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.

• **Yarning for Others** — 3 to 5 p.m., St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 1486 SW Levens St., Dallas. Knitters and crocheters gather to make clothing and accessories for those in need on the first Wednesday of every month. 503-689-7222.

• **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.

LIBRARY CALENDAR

DALLAS
950 Main St.
503-623-2633

www.ci.dallas.or.us/library

• Wednesday, Dec. 28, 4 p.m. — Kid's Book Club ("Lowly Order of the Worms").

• Thursday, Dec. 29, 10:30 a.m. — Children's Story Time.

• Tuesday, Jan. 3, 7 p.m. — Friends of the Library meeting.

• Wednesday, Jan. 4, 4 p.m. — PAWS to READ (Percy).

• Wednesday, Jan. 4, 5:30 p.m. — Ukelele Fans of Dallas.

INDEPENDENCE

175 Monmouth St.
503-838-1811

www.ci.independence.or.us/library

• Wednesday, Dec. 28, 10:30 a.m. — Family Story Time.

• Wednesday, Dec. 28, 3 p.m. — Wacky Wednesdays (Make some New Year's fun).

• Friday, Dec. 30, 3 p.m. — Teen Coloring and Craft Club.

• Tuesday, Jan. 3, 5:30 p.m. — Cuentos en Español.

• Wednesday, Jan. 4, 10:30 a.m. — Family Story Time.

• Wednesday, Jan. 4, 1 p.m. — Scrabble with Betty.

MONMOUTH
168 S. Ecols St.
503-751-0182

www.ci.monmouth.or.us/library

• Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2 p.m. — Movie ("The BFG").

• Thursday, Dec. 29, 10:30 a.m. — Puppet show (The Gingerbread Man).

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.

MI TOWN



PATTY TAYLOR
DUMCHER

The beautiful Christmas carols have taken flight from the airwaves and all the department stores for another year, we're finishing up the last of the cookies and candy and writing thank-you notes, sorting the pretty wrapping papers for recycling and taking time to reflect upon all the goodness and blessings of the season.

It's still a few days before we make those new year's resolutions, school days don't begin for another week or so, and work schedules for many people aren't quite a hassle until after the first of the year. Between putting away new gifts and trying to keep the cats from drinking the water from the tree stand, how about taking

some time to open a new book and relax with a cup of tea while the rest of the world goes by. If Santa didn't bring any books to your house this year, either of MI Town's libraries are well-stocked with books and cds. A quick trip around the corner or down the street can make that happen.

We'll welcome 2017 on Saturday night/Sunday morning and bid a fond farewell to this past year. At our house, we'll celebrate at

9 p.m. (midnight, eastern time) via television, with those gathering in Central Park in New York. We hope you enjoy ringing in the new year whether it's at a large hosted party, with family and a few good friends, or in peaceful solitude. Let's all be mindful of the weather and road conditions, and if celebrating with adult beverages, choosing a designated driver to get everyone home safely.

Last year, we looked in the back of the pantry and retrieved one of those old half-gallon canning jars with a zinc lid. It's been sitting on the dry sink in the corner of the dining room since New Year's Eve, and we have occasionally put in little notes whenever something good

happens. It can be anything from enjoying a visit from a friend to finding \$1 on the sidewalk or having someone special give you a hug; mostly spontaneous things that put a smile on our faces at the time. On New Year's Day, we'll open the jar to reflect over the events of last year. Hopefully, it will be the beginning of a new tradition for us, and we can reminisce about how the little things can be far more meaningful than the big things.

As we count down the last few days until 2017, let us all resolve to do whatever we can to make the new year our best year ever. Let's put aside differences and embrace the good things in our lives and the lives of those we love.

PEDEE NEWS



ARLENE KOVASH
Columnist

Nola Womer's place has been sold so we now have new neighbors, Mike and Kim Heggen, of Salem. Mike has been working every day to make the house "bachelor habitable" and has moved in with his farmhands, James and Draven, and then Kim will live in Salem until it is actually inhabitable (by wife standards).

Mike had just learned that last Monday marked six years to the day since Nola Womer died. He of course had never met Nola, but thinks of her every day — the plastic

flowers out front, the stash of bobby pins that her cat(s) batted under the linoleum in her bedroom, and so many other little things around there brings her to mind.

Cindy Clark flew to Alaska last Wednesday to see 6-year-old granddaughter Saoirse skate in a figure

skating show along with 11 other 6 year olds, and 63 other acts. It was a quick trip, but so nice to see both Saoirse and 10-year-old grandson Spike, as well as son Hans and his wife Andrea. Cindy spent most of September and October with her 90-year-old mother, Naomi, in Sacramento, who needs lots of help at this point.

Pedee Church is hosting Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University classes for anyone who would like to come. There will be a pre-view meeting on Jan. 19 at 7 p.m. at the church. Class-

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