

MI TOWN

For all of us who have been swapping January ice and snow stories and are so tired of the wet wool smell in coat closets and boots in the hallway, today marks the beginning of the brand new, bright and shiny month of February. Let's hope we can put that old wintry month behind us and think about the prospects of longer days and occasional flashes of sunshine. Feb. 14 is also Valentine's Day, so here's your early reminder to do something wonderful for that special somebody in your life.

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 Tomorrow Punxsutawney Phil will be poked and cozy den to celebrate Groundhog Day, and weather gurus will pontificate on whether we will forward to an early spring or endure six more



PATTY TAYLOR DUTCHER
 Columnist

weeks of winter, depending upon whether Phil sees his shadow. Be that as it may, I'm not in any big hurry to try on the latest in spring and summer fashions quite yet. No matter what Phil's weather friends have to say, we'll have more weeks of bundling up before we venture outdoors in shorts and T-shirts.

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 Hundreds of people attended Polk County Community Connect held last Wednesday at the Valley Life Center in Dallas. Many volunteers assisted people who were needing medical

and dental care, including vision checkups, warm clothing, pet care, bicycle repairs and other services for those who are enduring homelessness. The daily reports on the stock market show high numbers, and there are lots of stories about our growing economy, but there is a great need in our local area for assistance with housing, food and clothing for people of all ages.

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 If one of your new year's resolutions was to de-clutter and better organize your house, and to finally deal with all those old "too good to throw away" items in closets, attics and basements, there are many who could put them to good use. You'll have extra space and can feel good about doing something good for somebody else. It's a great way to

banish the dark winter days and forget about the doom and gloom of politics for a while.

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 This Saturday, "Help Fill Our Home" donation center will be open from 9 a.m. until noon. The center is located at 1050 SE Uglow Ave., in Dallas, and can accept donations of new or gently-used household items for families in need. Donations are tax deductible, and especially needed are couches, chairs, tables, dishes, lamps and clothing. Please contact Brent DeMoe, director of Polk County's Department of Family and Community Outreach, at 503-623-9664, ext. 2118, for more information. Please be sure your donated items are clean and in good repair, because ripped, stained or broken items cannot be accepted.

PEDEE NEWS

Alan and Tami Shifley's daughter, Amy, was on the dean's list at George Fox University in Newberg for the fall 2016 semester. Amy is a senior majoring in art and design. Traditional undergraduate students must earn a 3.5 grade-point average or above on 12 or more hours of graded work to earn a spot on the dean's list.

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 Tim and Dianna Barnhart are grandparents again. Easton Allen Barnhart was born to Nathaniel and Jipsii on Jan. 10, and weighed in at 9 pounds, 9 ounces. They live near Tim and Dianna, who are happy that they are so close.

—
 And another baby is on



ARLENE KOVASH
 Columnist

the way. Adam and Emily Coe are having a baby in July to join their other three: Arthur, Penny, and Desmond.

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 The people of Pedee are still telling snow stories. Norm and Donna Baldwin live quite a ways up a hill in Pedee and didn't come down for 17 days, with a few walks to the mail box. They stayed home and enjoyed the wildlife that came walking through. Peo-

ple had anywhere from 2 to 12 inches, depending on how high a hill they lived on.

—
 Kings Crossing Coffee Shop is open for business again. It is a student-led business in the old Kings Valley Church across from the Kings Valley School. The students are trying to create a local place for community to gather and share a cup of coffee and pastry. They are also a market place, showcasing artisan talents and unique gifts, so if you are looking for a space to sell your crafts, they have room. Please contact them at KVCS.kitchen@gmail.com. The coffee shop is open Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and, I found, a great place

to have breakfast.

—
 There was a good turnout at the preview night for Financial Peace University last week. The class itself starts on Thursday at 7 p.m. at the church and goes for nine weeks. Please call the church at 503-838-4073 if you are interested so they can have the materials for you, which are \$75/family, and less if you've done the program before. They will ask for payment at the first session. Also let them know if you need child care, which is free. The lesson on insurance alone will probably pay for the course many times over, so give the class a try. You will still be able to catch up if you start with the second class.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Continued from page 8A

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 8

- **Polk County Republican Women** — 11:30 a.m., Murphy's Restaurant, 288 E. Ellendale Ave., Dallas. Mark Garton, Polk County Sheriff, will speak. No-host lunch available; everyone welcome. 503-623-5759.
- **Respite care** — 1 to 3 p.m., 182 SW Academy St., Suite 216, Dallas. Free child care for parents who need time to run errands, pay bills, etc. Free. Open for children ages 6 weeks to 5 years. 503-877-8473 to reserve space. Diapers are provided.
- **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.
- **Free Blood Pressure Check Clinic** — 2 to 3 p.m., West Valley Hospital (surgery admitting area), 525 SE Washington St., Dallas. 503-623-7323.
- **Monmouth Senior Center Music Jam** — 6:30 p.m., Monmouth Senior Center, 180 Warren St. S., Monmouth. Open to the public; musicians of all types welcome. 503-838-5678.
- **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.
- **Dallas American Legion Post No. 20** — 7 p.m., Academy Building, Room 108, 182 SW Academy St., Dallas. 503-831-3971.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

These Polk County groups would welcome individuals who have time or expertise to volunteer. Organizations that would like to be added to this list should call 503-623-2373 or email IONews@polkio.com.

- AARP Foundation Tax-Aide — 503-930-7636
- After DARC — 503-623-9501
- Arc of Polk County — 541-223-3261
- Central School District — 503-838-0030
- City of Dallas — 503-831-3502
- City of Independence — 503-838-1212
- City of Monmouth — 503-751-0145
- Crime Victims Assistance Program — 503-623-9268
- Dallas Area Chamber of Commerce — 503-623-2564
- Dallas Fire Department — 503-831-3532
- Dallas Food Bank — 503-623-3578
- Dallas Kids, Inc. — 503-623-6419
- Dallas Police Department — 503-831-3582
- Dallas Public Library — 503-623-2633
- Dallas Retirement Village — 503-623-5581
- Dallas School District — 503-623-5594
- Delbert Hunter Arboretum — 503-623-7359
- Girl Scouts of Southwest Washington and Oregon — 503-581-2451
- Ella Curran Food Bank — 503-917-1681
- Falls City Arts Center — 503-559-6291
- Falls City School District — 503-787-3531
- Family Building Blocks — 503-566-2132, ext. 308.
- H-2-O — 503-831-4736
- HART (Horses Adaptive Riding and Therapy) — 971-301-4278
- HandsOn Mid-Willamette Valley — 503-363-1651
- Heron Pointe Assisted Living — 503-838-6850
- Independence Health and Rehabilitation — 503-838-0001
- Independence Public Library — 503-838-1811
- Kings Valley Charter School — 541-929-2134
- Luckiamute Watershed Council — 503-837-0237
- Luckiamute Valley Charter School — 503-623-4837
- Meals on Wheels — 503-838-2084
- Monmouth-Independence Chamber of Commerce — 503-838-4268
- Monmouth-Independence YMCA — 503-838-4042
- Monmouth Public Library — 503-838-1932
- Northwest Human Services — 503-588-5828
- Oregon Child Development Coalition — 503-838-2745
- OSU Extension Service - Polk County — 503-623-8395
- Perrydale School District — 503-623-2040
- Court-Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Polk County Inc. — 503-623-8473
- Polk Community Development Corporation — 503-831-3173
- Polk County Community Emergency Response Team — 503-623-9396
- Polk County Museum — 503-623-6251
- Polk County Public Health — 503-623-8175
- Polk County Resource Center — 503-623-8429
- Polk Soil and Water Conservation District — 503-623-9680
- Relief Nursery Classroom — 503-566-2132
- Rickreall Watershed Council — 503-623-9680
- SABLE House — 503-623-6703
- SALT (Senior and law enforcement together) — 503-851-9366
- Salvation Army — 503-798-4783
- SMART (Start Making A Reader Today) — 503-391-8423
- Salem Health West Valley Hospital — 503-623-8301
- Victim Assistance Program-Polk Co. District Attorney's Office 503-623-9268 x1444
- Willamette Valley Hospice — 503-588-3600

Did the Stork visit you in 2016?

All babies will be entered into a drawing for **FREE PRIZES** from area merchants!

Mom! Dad! Grandparents! Bring in a photo!



Maverick James Lunsford
 June 16, 2016



Harper Renae Steggell
 Feb. 8, 2016

BABIES OF 2016

Showcase your little one with his or her photo, birthdate and names of proud parents. Only babies born in 2016 are candidates for **BABIES OF 2016**. All baby photos submitted will appear in a **special full color section** of the *Itemizer-Observer* on Feb. 22, 2017. Please mail, email or drop off the following form, a photo and \$20.00 to our office by Feb. 17th prior to 2:00 p.m. (The photo may be picked up after publication). If you have questions, call Dawn at 503-623-2373, ext 101. Email digital photos to dohren@polkio.com

(CLIP THIS FORM)

Baby's Full Name _____

Birthdate _____

Birth Place _____

Parent's Names _____

Phone Number _____

Address _____

Remember to bring in a photo! Cost is only \$20.00

DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 17 PUBLISH: FEBRUARY 22

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