

MI TOWN



PATTY TAYLOR DUTCHER
Columnist

Even though Cupid packed up his bow and arrow and has left town for another year, I'd like to send belated Valentine's Day greetings and a big helping of gratitude to those who help make living in MI Town extra special, all year long.

To everyone at our local elementary schools, Talmadge Middle School, Central High School and Western Oregon University who work hard to provide an excellent education to our younger generation, thank you for sharing your gifts with our students and giving them the opportunity for a bright and happy future. Best wishes to the professors and teachers and the clerical folks, and the men and women who keep our campuses neat and tidy and safe, and those who are there to help with physical

and emotional needs, as well. Thank you to the students who come to MI Town from all over the world — you keep us young at heart and give us an opportunity to become more involved in so many activities on campus and in the community.

I'd like to bestow lots of hearts and flowers upon both the Monmouth and Independence public libraries for providing the best children's programs for our even-younger generation, and as a warm and cozy place to meet with friends and colleagues.

There are so many ongoing activities available for everyone.

The color red, often signifies danger to our local firefighters and police officers, so wouldn't it be nice if they received some kind and caring wishes as well? They are always watching out for us 24/7, and are also our friends and neighbors.

Nothing beats the feel of a newspaper in our hands and the opportunity to read for ourselves what is going on in our community and our world. The newspaper — whether on a daily or weekly basis — is our true connection with local events and happenings and human interest stories about people we know. Valentine wishes to everyone involved with our newspapers, and thank you for all those hours and days

working hard when the rest of us are sleeping, celebrating holidays or off on vacations.

An extra special shower of valentines go to the Monmouth Senior Center, where Sue Teal and a wonderful group of volunteers work hard every day to offer programs, classes, field trips, and the opportunity to meet new friends every day. If you're new to the area and haven't discovered the Monmouth Senior Center, stop by any weekday between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., at 180 Warren St. S.

This winter's weather has had more twists and turns than a Monte Carlo road race, and Mother Nature has even more surprises in store for us before springtime appears. Let's hope for more visits from Mr. Sun this week.

PEDEE NEWS



ARLENE KOVASH
Columnist

Kevin and Karen Porter drove to San Francisco the weekend of Jan. 21 to pick up two friends visiting from Australia, Fiona Cockerell and her 15-year-old daughter, Kaitlynn. Kevin became friends with the Cockerell family while in Australia on a Work Exchange Abroad program through FFA after high school. Other members of the family have visited several times, but this was Fiona and Kaitlynn's first trip to the U.S. The four drove back to Oregon up the California coast and stopped in several towns, and visited the redwoods.

Once back in Oregon, Fiona and Kaitlynn visited Newport to see the light-houses and aquarium,

toured many of the local towns, did lots of shopping, and helped plant a few hazelnut trees. The Porters then drove them up a snowy Columbia Gorge to Pendleton on Feb 5, to meet the next family on their trip. They will spend a week in eastern Oregon before flying back home, where the temperature has been around 100 degrees.

Judy Guida avoided much rain and snow by

going with her niece Jackie to Costa Rica for a week-long yoga retreat sponsored by two yoga centers in Portland, where Jackie lives. They had one and a half to three hours of yoga during the morning hours, then spent the rest of the time surfing, hiking, and generally enjoying the great weather and exotic (to us) animals. There were lots of monkeys, macaws, and parrots where they stayed.

Paul and Diane Telfer spent the last month on a hiking vacation in the Southwest. They hiked the trails and visited friends and relatives in Indio, Lake Havasu City, Phoenix, and Yuma, and then drove back to Indio. They figured they

hiked 100 miles over the four weeks. The hike they don't care to repeat was a rugged trail into Dead Burro Canyon near Lake Havasu City.

A new community Bible study was started last fall with the study of 1 John. The group has now regrouped for a study of 1 Timothy, which has just started. They will be meeting at Pam Burbank's on Friday mornings from 10 to 11:30 and welcome anyone. The study is unique in that a person is only obligated for the length of time it takes to study one book — you're not making a lifetime commitment. Then if you want, you can stick with the group for the next book chosen.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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WEDNESDAY, FEB. 22

- **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.
- **American Red Cross Blood Drive** — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Dallas Retirement Village, 377 NW Jasper St., Dallas. www.redcross-blood.org.
- **Respite care** — 1 to 3 p.m., 182 SW Academy St, Suite 216, Dallas. Free childcare 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.
- **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.

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 ONews@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!



Maverick James Lunsford
June 16, 2016



Harper Renae Steggell
Feb. 8, 2016

Mom! Dad! Grandparents! Bring in a photo!

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 _____

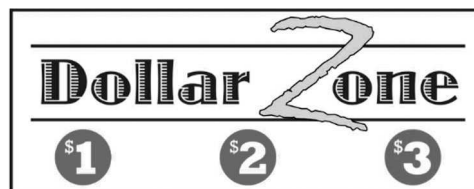
Address _____

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

DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 17 PUBLISH: FEBRUARY 22

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

Thank you to our customers!



625 E. Clay St. Monmouth • 503-837-0861

Bring in your Drawing Ticket by March 1st for **\$1 OFF** any item!

West Valley Housing Authority will hold their **Work Session Meeting on Wednesday, February 22, 2017 beginning at 11:30 a.m. at 204 SW Walnut in Dallas, Oregon. The Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 22, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. at 204 SW Walnut in Dallas, Oregon. An Executive Session pursuant to ORS 192.660 will be held immediately following the Regular Meeting, if required.**

Agenda for the meeting is posted on the Housing Authority website at www.wvpha.org. The location for the meeting is handicapped accessible. Please advise the West Valley Housing Authority if you need any special accommodations to attend the meeting. For information, please call 503-623-8387, TDD 1-800-735-2900.