

# Control moss by keeping grass healthy

Many homeowners struggle with moss that invades lawns as winter rains provide just the right conditions for its growth.

"The most frequent winter time question I receive regarding lawn maintenance is, 'How do I get rid of moss?'" said Alec Kowalewski, turf grass specialist for Oregon State University Extension Service.

To answer that question, Kowalewski and Brooke Edmunds, a horticulturist with Extension, developed a publication and video on Managing Moss in the Landscape in Western Oregon. The new resources dive into the three steps to rid your lawn of moss, a frustrating process since it first involves dealing with the conditions that encourage moss.

"Some people want the quick fix," said Edmunds. "They don't want to think that it might be too difficult to have lawn in the shade. But grass doesn't grow well in wet, shady areas and won't outcompete moss."

Moss is like a lot of weeds, Kowalewski added. It will do well in tough situations and doesn't need as much nutrients as lawn does.

Don't just put a Band-Aid on it with chemicals, Edmunds said. Instead keep



**KYM POKORNY**  
Your Garden

the lawn healthy by reducing shade and moisture and following good cultural practices. That includes keeping pH between 6.0 and 6.5 by adding lime if necessary. Fertilize twice in spring and twice in fall. Mow and irrigate appropriately.

To maintain a healthy lawn, Edmunds recommends pruning trees to let in more sunlight and dealing with excessive water with French drains or tiles.

If that doesn't bring the desired results, Edmunds recommends treating the moss with appropriate chemicals. Another option is to dethatch the lawn with a rake or rented dethatcher to pull up the moss and then reseed bare spots. If all else fails, you'll need to do a full renovation.

If you choose to use a product to control moss, there are several available. Kowalewski recommends sulfate products such as ferrous sulfate, iron sulfate and ammonium sulfate. These are environmentally friendly



<https://flic.kr/p/itjn57>

**Maintain healthy grass to keep moss from invading.**

options, he said. Apply by spot treating as soon as moss appears.

Sulfur products such as these will lower the soil pH, making conditions acidic. An occasional application of lime, which will raise the pH, is recommended when you are making frequent sulfur applications. Before applying lime, test soil pH with a gauge available at garden centers and home improvement stores.

If you decide to use a chemical herbicide,

Kowalewski recommended that gardeners choose products with soap of fatty acid or carfentrazone as an active ingredient. Read labels and follow all safety precautions when using pesticides. Remember, though, even using herbicides to kill moss won't keep it from returning.

When using herbicides, be sure to use protective gear and to follow all of the label's recommendations.

Some people like moss. For them, Edmunds said, "If you're OK with it, carry on."

# MI TOWN

To continue along my medical journey: Today's a follow-up appointment with Dr. Faddis in Corvallis to be sure all is well. Thanks to everyone who sent their good wishes and prayers and angels — and wonderful dinners and desserts that meant ever so much. The entire medical team at Good Samaritan Hospital in Corvallis brought so much skill and expertise and kindness and caring to my surgery and follow-up. The Pastega Cancer Center on the Good Samaritan campus has wonderful services and support for cancer patients and their families. We will be forever grateful and happy to arrive at the end of this scary and often frightening adventure.

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



**PATTY TAYLOR DUTCHER**  
Columnist

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

Home for us the past 18 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 M-I 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, great-grandchildren and other family members traveling. We'll drive over the river and through the woods to visit our kids and their kids in Portland and Scappoose, sharing love and laughter with and catch up with kids home from college for Christmas break. We'll share all the traditional holiday foods and throw caution to the winds and eat that extra piece of homemade fudge because it's just so good. Merry Christmas and best wishes from our home to yours.

# PEDEE NEWS

Former Pedee resident Ted South, 78, died on Dec. 2. He grew up on Shady Lane, going to school in Pedee and lived there until the '60s. He was the brother of Carla Burbank.

Daniel and Heidi Russell just got home from a truly life-changing trip to the nations of Egypt, Jordan, and Israel, given to them by friends who felt it was important for them to go. They visited many historically significant sites in the three countries. In Egypt, they spent time among the pyramids, seeing artifacts from King Tutankhamen's tomb, and spending a sunny afternoon sailing on the Nile river.

In Jordan, they walked



**ARLENE KOVASH**  
Columnist

through a mile-long crevice in red stone to the ancient city of Petra (carved from red stone bluffs and made famous in the movie Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade). Also in Jordan, they visited the place believed to be where Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist. Later, in Israel, the Russells enjoyed time at the Sea of Galilee, Jerusalem, and the Dead Sea where they stood in many places described in the Bible.

One of the many highlights of the trip was participating in the annual lighting of the Bethlehem Christmas tree among the Palestinians in Bethlehem. This event was marked with speeches and special performances, including an appearance by Yacoub Shaheen, the 2017 winner of the television show "Arab Idol." While at the Sea of Galilee, they had "St. Peter's Fish," a traditional fish lunch served to tourists and pilgrims. It was also traditional to bite the head off the fish. Yum? The weather was perfect — sunshine and 60s to 70s the entire time, except for a few drops of rain in Jordan as they were riding to the border crossing into Israel.

Meanwhile the kids got to stay at various times with friends and relatives and did well with that.

Pete and LaVerne Bennett became the parents of a grandfather on Dec. 8. Their son Rick and Michelle's son Ryan and wife Shawna's baby was born in Salem, where they live. His name is Elliot Phillip and is Pete and LaVerne's first great-grandchild.

Pedee Church's Christmas schedule includes a Christmas Eve morning service at 10, and their traditional community candlelight service and children's program on Christmas Eve at 7.

# LIBRARY CALENDAR

**DALLAS**  
950 Main St. • 503-623-2633  
[www.ci.dallas.or.us/library](http://www.ci.dallas.or.us/library)

- Thursday, Dec. 21, 10:30 a.m. — Children's Story Time.
- Dec. 22-25 — Library Closed.
- Tuesday, Dec. 26, 10:30 a.m. — Morning Children's Story Time.
- Tuesday, Dec. 26, 3:30 p.m. — Afternoon Children's Story Time.

**INDEPENDENCE**  
175 Monmouth St. • 503-838-1811

[www.ci.independence.or.us/library](http://www.ci.independence.or.us/library)

- Wednesday, Dec. 20, 10:30 a.m. — Family Story Time.
- Thursday, Dec. 21, 3 p.m. — Movie (Cars 3, Rated G).
- Saturday, Dec. 23, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. — Kid's holiday movie specials.
- Dec. 25 — Library Closed.
- Wednesday, Dec. 27, 10:30 a.m. — Family Story Time.

**MONMOUTH**  
168 S. Ecols St.

503-751-0182  
[www.ci.monmouth.or.us/library](http://www.ci.monmouth.or.us/library)

- Dec. 22-25 — Library Closed.
- Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2 p.m. — Movie (Despicable Me 3, Rated PG).

**WAGNER COMMUNITY LIBRARY**  
111 N. Main St., Falls City  
503-787-3521, ext. 319  
[www.facebook.com/WagnerCommunityLibrary/timeline](http://www.facebook.com/WagnerCommunityLibrary/timeline)

- See the library's Facebook page for upcoming events.

# COMMUNITY NOTEBOOK

## Make gingerbread houses Thursday

Sharon Kay Woods will offer a gingerbread house decorating class at 2 p.m. on Thursday at the Monmouth Senior Center 180 Warren St. S.

Cost is \$3 and includes all the decorations, icing and graham crackers. All proceeds go to the senior center scholarship fund.

Register to attend. Class size is limited. Grandchildren welcome.

For more information: 503-838-5678.

## 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](mailto:ionews@polkio.com)).*

### WEDNESDAY, DEC. 20

- **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., Salem Health West Valley (main conference room inside main entrance), 525 SE Washington St., Dallas. 503-623-7323.
- **Pickleball** — 9 a.m. to noon, Roger Jordan Community Park. Meets on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to noon. Karen Freeman, 503-871-4172.
- **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. 21

- **Dallas Lions Club** — Noon, Pressed Wine Bar, 788 Main St., Dallas. Everyone welcome. 503-623-8121.
- **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.
- **Mom and Me** — Salem Health West Valley, 525 SE Washington St., Dallas (enter through emergency door on Clay Street). Breastfeeding support group. Free. 503-831-5593.
- **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.
- **Hymn sing-along** — 6:30 p.m., Monmouth Senior Center, 180 Warren St. S., Monmouth. Sing hymns with others. 503-838-5678.
- **Veterans Night at the Elks** — 6:30 p.m., Independence Elks Lodge Post 1950, 289 S. Main St., Independence. Different organization presents about services offered to veterans. Bunko upstairs for families.
- **Dallas Senior Writing Group** — 10 a.m. to noon, Dallas Senior Center, 955 SE Jefferson St., Dallas. For all seniors who love to write. Free. 503-623-9616.
- **American Legion Women's Auxiliary** — 7 p.m., Academy Building, room 108, 182 SW Academy St., Dallas. 503-623-2591.
- **Radio Operators Association of Dallas (ROADS)** — 7 p.m., Polk County Courthouse (Jefferson Street entrance), 850 Main St., Dallas. Organization for amateur radio operators; public welcome. 503-881-5836.

### FRIDAY, DEC. 22

- **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, 186 SE Mill St., Dallas. 503-399-0599.
- **The Arc of Polk County Dance and Karaoke Night** — 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Academy Building, 182 SW Academy St., Dallas. For adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Admission: \$3 (staffers and family admitted free). Snacks available for purchase. 541-223-3261.
- **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. 23

- **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. 25

- **Merry Christmas!**

### TUESDAY, DEC. 26

- **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. Mondays through Thursdays. 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.
- **James2 Community Kitchen Meal** — 4:30 to 6 p.m., United Methodist Church located at 242 N Main St., Falls City. Free; everyone welcome. 503-623-8429. (Second, third and fourth Tuesdays)
- **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.
- **Dallas Rotary** — Noon, Dallas Civic Center, 945 SE Jefferson St., Dallas. Lunch and speaker. Public is welcome.

### WEDNESDAY, DEC. 27

- **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.
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Itemizer-Observer

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