

COMMUNITY NOTEBOOK

ACAC displays art collection

Indy Commons, 278 S. Main St., Independence, will host the Ash Creek Arts Center's fourth anniversary exhibit reception from 6 to 9 p.m. on Saturday.

Past and present artists who have worked with ACAC have been invited to participate in this group exhibit, which is the first of a new partnership between the center and local business Indy Commons.

A rotating series of art exhibits will be displayed at the business throughout the year. ACAC leaders also are coordinating with the River Gallery, 184 S. Main St., Independence, to hold events on the same dates, creating evenings for the community to enjoy a stroll.

While visiting the ACAC four-year exhibition, walk down to the River Gallery to view its annual Wild Women exhibit reception.

Dallas library to host novelist Patchell

On Thursday at 7 p.m., the Dallas Public Library will host Oregon suspense writer Chris Patchell.

Patchell is the bestselling author of "In the Dark, Dark Harvest," and the Indie Reader Discovery Award winning novel "Deadly Lies." Chris recently left her long-time career in tech to pursue her passion for writing full time. She pens gritty suspense novels set in the Pacific Northwest, where she lives with her family and two neurotic dogs. She will give a sneak peek at her newest book, "Vowel of Silence," which will be released Feb. 6. Visit her website at www.chrispatchell.com.

This free event is made possible, in part, by funding from the Polk County Cultural Coalition and the Friends of the Dallas Library. For more

Something to cheer about



Emily Mentzer/Itemizer-Observer

The crowd roared and the Dallas Dragons cheered as the boys basketball team took the lead in the third quarter.

information: 503-623-2633, or check facebook.com/dallaslibraryoregon.

Dallas boosters to host pizza party

The Dallas Booster Club and Dallas' Papa Murphy's have teamed up to raise money for artificial turf field for Dallas High School as part of the Booster's ongoing efforts.

On Wednesday (today), 20 percent of sales at Papa Murphy's will go toward the turf project. No coupons are required for the event.

Also, Dallas Les Schwab will collect cans and bottles for the "Bottle Drop for Turf" efforts

on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Les Schwab will continue to collect bottles and cans on the last Saturday of the month to help with the project.

Free man-tracking classes offered

The Joel Hardin Professional Tracking Services-Visual Tracking and Training Inc. organization will offer man-tracking classes in Polk and Yamhill counties to interested persons at no charge. These classes are conducted by certified trackers and designated trainers.

Classes consist of weekly two- to six-hour training sessions on Fridays and/or Sundays. Times and locations vary.

For more information: Ron Glaus, apprentice tracker and designated trainer, rag7@comcast.net.

Love is in the air in Independence

The Independence Downtown Association presents its annual Walk of Hearts.

Express your sentiment on a bright red heart hung on the lamppost in downtown Independence. Cost is \$30 per side. Order online at indyhearts.eventbrite.com by Feb. 4. For a paper form, email pd1571@yahoo.com, or call 503-838-2314.

MI TOWN

Old Man Winter has moved to MI Town and it looks like he's unpacked his suitcases and is planning a long visit this year. These frosty early mornings can make drives or walks to school and work an unplanned and sometimes eventful adventure. Brave and hardy souls who bundle up and are not deterred from those morning walks notice more slippery sidewalks and frosty streets as a part of the daily trek. Some mornings all our reflexes are challenged as we venture out into the cold and quiet day, and we need to take extra care to prevent a nasty fall on wet or slippery sidewalks. Let's all remember to take a few extra minutes to



PATTY TAYLOR DUTCHER
Columnist

be prepared before we set out on these cold and frosty days.

And while we're on the subject, on dark and rainy — as well as those occasional snowy — winter days, it's always a good idea to turn on the headlights as soon as you start your car, even though it's in the middle of the day. It helps other drivers see other cars on the road and can prevent

nasty fender-benders or more serious crashes from happening. Cheers to bicyclists who have added both front and rear lights. We want to see you get to your destination — and back home again — safe and sound.

One good thing about reaching this point in winter is that we are getting just a bit more daylight in the morning and some afternoon sunshine — on the days we can see that big orb in the sky — than we had even a couple of weeks ago. The first green tendrils of springtime bulbs are making an appearance here and there, which always gives our hearts just a bit more hope of the brighter season that's just around the corner.

We can all keep our spirits up by following our local athletes who are participating in winter sports at both Central High School and Western Oregon University. Being in a good and positive environment where youth and ability combines to bring so much enthusiasm can be highly addictive, and those dark and dismal days will disappear very quickly.

Yoga group meets at Monmouth Senior Center at 7:30 a.m. on weekdays, and there's always room for more. Coffee and conversation after a gentle session is a great reward.

PEDEE NEWS

The Polk County Saddle-ites had about 28 riders from around the county and beyond out for their annual New Year's Ride on Jan. 6. The riders met at Jerry Mentzer's on Pedee Creek Road for the two-hour ride on trails that provided great scenery, although with the logging taking place by the Kovash's, they started further up Pedee Creek Road than usual. They ended with a big campfire and potluck, with time for leisurely visiting on that beautiful sunny day.

Eric and Rebekah Schwanke traveled to a conference in Fremont, Calif., from Jan. 10-14 with their friends, the Russells, to see speakers that Eric and



ARLENE KOVASH
Columnist

Rebekah met during their time in Mozambique with Iris Global ministries last summer. On the drive to California, the van suddenly began leaving an enormous cloud of white smoke just south of Ashland. It appeared the trip was over. However, a mechanic shop (conveniently situated next to a motel) adjusted their workload to make repairs on the van. It turned out to be a pleasant

stay in Ashland, and the group was only a little late to the conference. They made it safely home on Sunday after driving through the night on Saturday. This was a new experience for Allana, Alex, and Abigail Russell, who had never attended an event like this before.

The Kings Valley Charter School coffee shop, Kings Crossing, which is run by the high school students in the school, wrapped up their shop at the end of the holidays and will reopen on March 31. It was an exciting place to be this year, with music, crafts and demonstrations during the Saturdays they were open. The students put in an impressive 279 volun-

teer hours to make it happen, with sophomore Bradley Davis going above and beyond by spending almost all of his Saturdays helping. Senior Robert Keep also put in a lot of hours as the assistant manager. Contact Jennie Wilder at jwilder@kv.school.org if you'd like to participate, as a vendor, musician, or demonstrator.

Correction: The men's woodcutting crew at Pedee Church meets every third Saturday to cut wood, not the third Saturday of the month. Their next work day will be Saturday, Jan. 27, and will meet at the church at 8 a.m. for an opportunity to bless the community with firewood.

BIRTHS

Wiley

Marley May Wiley was born a 1:25 a.m. on Jan. 15, 2018, to Lillian N. Baker and Dustin J. Wiley, both of McMinnville. She weighed 7 pounds, 3 ounces, and was 20 inches long.

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, JAN. 24

- **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.
- **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, JAN. 25

- **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.

FRIDAY, JAN. 26

- **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, JAN. 27

- **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. 28

- **Last Sunday at River Gallery** — 2 to 4 p.m., River Gallery, 184 S. Main St., Independence. Reception to honor corner and window focus artists. Free. 503-838-6171.

MONDAY, JAN. 29

- **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. 30

- **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.
- **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.
- **Toastmasters** — 6 to 7 p.m., Pressed Coffee & Wine Bar, 788 Main St., Dallas. Learn how to effectively speak in public and increase your leadership skills.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 31

- **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.
- **Pickleball** — 9 a.m. to noon, Roger Jordan Community Park. Karen Freeman, 503-871-4172.

Squirrel's TAXI SERVICE

- 24 Hour Service
- Pick up Drop Off

Get home safe, call your D. D.

Merlin D. Berkey **971-240-1208**

Enter To **WIN**

\$4,000

\$100 weekly \$3,000 Grand Prize

Newspaper sponsored shopping survey. No purchase necessary.

Enter to win now, go to:

www.pulsepoll.com

dish Call Today to Save 25%

DISH Special Offer

\$49.99 /mo

✓ 190+ Channels

✓ FREE Next Day Installation!

✓ FREE Hopper HD DVR

High Speed Internet

\$14.95 /mo

✓ SAVE When You Bundle

✓ Options Available Nationwide

✓ #1 In Customer Satisfaction

Call Today & Save Up To 25%! Call for more information

1-866-373-9175

MORE HD CHANNELS, FASTER INTERNET AND UNLIMITED VOICE.

• Speeds up to 60Mbps

• Unlimited data - no data caps

SPECTRUM INTERNET™

As Low As **\$29.99** /month

Blazing fast internet is available and can be yours with Spectrum Internet™. With speeds starting at 60 Mbps

125+ CHANNELS UP TO 60Mbps UNLIMITED VOICE

\$89.97 /month

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL AUTHORIZED RETAILER

855-613-2321

Spectrum AUTHORIZED RETAILER