POLK GUF BUF 2018

INSIDE | Holiday Celebrations Schedule | **Pg.14**

Welcome to the 2018 Polk Gift Guide

In this issue, we bring you tidings of great joy through stories of giving. Inside, you can read about local nonprofits that take the holiday spirit and warmth of Christmas and spread it to those in need within our communities.

You can find out how you can help those organizations through donations of time and money. If you know someone who may need a boost this holiday season, information can be found here for how to apply to receive from these groups.

These organizations are focused on ensuring that all families in Polk County have gifts under their tree and food on their tables on Christmas morning.

Of course those aren't the only nonprofits worthy of consideration for a holiday donation.

We've included our volunteer opportunities listing, which is a compilation we collect yearround and run in the Itemizer-Observer when space allows. There is something for everyone. If you're looking to get involved, see what would fit your interests and time commitment. If you don't see your organization listed, send information to ionews@polkio.com to be included in future publications.

We've included some of our favorite holiday recipes. Should you be inspired to try them, send us a picture of how they turned out. Share with us your favorite holiday recipes we'll try and make them ourselves!

In this publication, you will find many beautiful gift ideas from local businesses. There's something about finding the perfect gift from a local business owner that makes it feel even more special. You know your money is staying in our community and helping a neighbor pay his or her bills.

From all of us at the Itemizer, we wish you a Happy Holidays and a bright New Year.



Happy Holidays from Our Team!

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GREAT GIFTS FOR THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Service Call

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mas

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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.

• Arc of Polk County PO Box 584, Dallas, OR 97338 arcofpolkcounty.org; 541-223-3261

Ash Creek Arts Center

311 S. Monmouth St., Independence, OR 97351

ashcreekarts.org; 971-599-3301

• Brookdale Senior Living 504 Gwinn St. E. Monmouth, OR

97361 www.brookdale.com; 503-838-6850

• Central School District 750 S. Fifth St., Independence, OR 97351

central.k12.or.us; 503-838-0030

• City of Dallas 187 S.E. Court St., Dallas, OR 97338 ci.dallas.or.us;503-623-2338

• City of Independence 555 S. Main St., Independence, OR 97351

ci.independence.or.us; 503-838-1212

• City of Monmouth 151 Main St. West, Monmouth, OR 97361

ci.monmouth.or.us; 503-838-0722

• Crime Victims Assistance Program 850 Main St., Dallas, OR 97338

co.polk.or.us/da/prosecution/va/ crime-victims-assistance-program; 503-623-9268

• Dallas Area Chamber of Commerce 168 SW Court St., Dallas, OR 97338 www.dallasoregon.org; 503-623-2564

Dallas Downtown Association

PO Box 903, Dallas, OR 97338 dallasdowntownassociation.org; 971-701-1880

• Dallas Emergency Food Bank 322 Main St., Ste. 180, Dallas, OR 97338

503-623-3578

• Dallas Fire Department 915 SE Shelton St., Dallas, OR 97338 dallasor.gov/154/Fire-EMS; 503-831-3533

• Dallas Kids, Inc. 976 SW Hayter St., Dallas, OR 97338 dallaskidsinc.org; 503-623-6419

• Dallas Lions Club 850 Main St., Dallas, OR 97338 e-clubhouse.org/sites/dallasor;

503-879-9038

• Dallas Police Department 187 S.E. Court St., Dallas, OR 97338 ci.dallas.or.us/123/Police; 503-831-3516

• Dallas Public Library 950 Main St., Dallas, OR 97338 ci.dallas.or.us/102/Library; 503-623-2633

• Dallas Retirement Village

377 N.W. Jasper St., Dallas, OR 97338

dallasretirementvillage.com; 503-623-5581

• Dallas School District 111 S.W. Ash St., Dallas, OR 97338 dallas.k12.or.us; 503-623-5594

• Delbert Hunter Arboretum 631 S.W. Park St., Dallas, OR

PO Box 604, Dallas, OR 97338

hunterarboretum@gmail.com; 503-623-7359 • Ella Curran Food Bank 854 N. Main St., Independence, OR 97351 ellacurranfoodbank.org; 503-838-1276

• Falls City School District 111 N. Main St., Falls City, OR 97344 fallscityschools.org; 503-787-3521

• Family Building Blocks 182 S.W. Academy St., Ste. 210, Dallas, OR 97338 familybuildingblocks.org; 503-623-9664 ext. 2184

• Friends of the Dallas Library c/o Dallas Public Library 950 Main St., Dallas, OR 97330 ci.dallas.or.us/library;503-623-2633

• Girl Scouts of Southwest Washington and Oregon

girlscoutsosw.org; 1-800-338-5248HART (Horses Adaptive Riding and

Therapy) 6665 Rickreall Rd., Independence, OR 97351

horsesadaptiveriding.org; 971-301-4278

• HandsOn Mid-Willamette Valley 455 Bliler Ave. NE Salem, OR 97301

www.unitedwaymwv.org; 503-363-1651

• Historic Gentle House 855 Monmouth Ave. N. Monmouth, OR 97361

www.wou.edu/gentlehouse; 503-838-2995

 Independence Health and Rehabilitation

1525 Monmouth Ave. Independence, OR 97351

www.empres.com/location/independence-health-rehab-center; 503-838-0001

• Independence Public Library

175 Monmouth St. Independence, OR 97351

www.ci.independence.or.us/library; 503-838-1811

Kings Valley Charter School

38840 Kings Valley Highway, Philomath, OR 97370

sites.google.com/a/kvschool.org/kvcs; 541-929-2134

• Luckiamute Watershed Council

165 D Street, Independence, OR 97351

www.luckiamutelwc.org; 503-837-0237

• Luckiamute Valley Charter School

17475 Bridgeport Road, Dallas, 97338 (elementary school)

12975 Kings Valley Highway, Monmouth OR, 97351 (Pedee Campus)

lvcs.k12.or.us; 503-623-4837

• Meals on Wheels (Marion-Polk Food Share)

1660 Salem Industrial Drive NE, Salem, OR 97301

www.marionpolkfoodshare.org/ programs/meals-on-wheels; 503-581-3855

Monmouth-Independence Chamber of Commerce

355 Pacific Ave. N. Monmouth, OR 97361

www.micc-or.org; 503-838-4268

Monmouth-Independence YMCA

970 N. Main St. Independence, OR 97351

theyonline.org/locations/monmouth-independence-family-ymca; 503-838-4042

Monmouth Public Library

168 Ecols St. S., Monmouth, OR 97361

www.ci.monmouth.or.us/pview.aspx-?id=4742; 503-838-1932

Northwest Human Services

681 Center St. NE, Salem, OR 97301

www.northwesthumanservices.org; 503-588-5828

Oregon Child Development Coalition

535 G St., Independence, OR 97351

www.ocdc.net/locations/#polk; 503-838-2745

OSU Extension Service Polk County

289 E. Ellendale Ave., Suite 301, Dallas, OR 97338

extension.oregonstate.edu/polk; 503-623-8395

• Perrydale School District

7445 Perrydale Road, Amity, OR 97101

www.perrydaleschool.com; 503-623-2040

• Court-Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Polk County Inc.

580 Main St. Suite D, Dallas, OR, 97338

www.perrydaleschool.com; 503-623-8473

• Polk Community Development Corporation

657 Main St. Dallas, OR 97338 www.polkcdc.org; 503-831-3173

• Polk County Community Emergency Response Team

www.facebook.com/groups/ PolkCountyCERTOregon

polkcountycert.org; 503-623-9396

Polk County Museum

560 S. Pacific Highway W. (99W), Rickereall, OR 97371

www.polkcountyhistoricalsociety.org; 503-623-6251

• Polk County Resource Centers

Dallas: Academy Building, 182 SW Academy St., Suite 220, Dallas, OR 97338

Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Independence: 1610 Monmouth St., Independence, OR 97351

Thursdays 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., or by appointment

503-606-2310

Falls City: 257 N. Main St., Falls City, OR 97344

Every other Friday from 2 to 5 p.m.

Grand Ronde: Social Services Department at the Community Center

9615 Grand Ronde Road, OR 97347

www.co.polk.or.us/fco/resource-centers; 503-623-9664a

• Polk Soil and Water Conservation District

580 Main St., Suite A, Dallas, OR 97338 www.polkswcd.com; 503-623-9680

Rickreall Watershed Council

165 D St., Independence, OR 97351 www.rickreallwc.org; 503-623-9680 ext. 104

SABLE House

341 SE Oak St. Dallas, OR 97338

www.sablehouse.org; 503-623-6703

• SALT (Sheriff's Auxiliary & Law Enforcement Together)

850 Main St., Dallas, OR 97338 www.co.polk.or.us; 503-623-9251

• Salvation Army of Marion and Polk Counties

At the Dallas Community Resource Center, Academy Building, 182 SW Academy Street, Suite 220 Dallas OR 97338 Phone: 503-623-9664

www.salem.kroccenter.org/social-services.html; 503-623-9664

• SMART (Start Making A Reader Today)

4068 Hudson Ave. NE, Salem, OR 97301

www.getsmartoregon.org; 503-391-8423

• Salem Health West Valley Hospital 525 SE Washington St., Dallas, OR 97338

www.salemhealth.org/services/salemhealth-west-valley; 503-623-8301

• Willamette Valley Hospice 1015 Third St. NW, Salem, OR 97304 www.wvh.org ; 503-588-3600

• WIMPEG Community Access Television (Western Independence Monmouth) wimpeg.weebly.com; 503-837-0163

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Wishing You a Safe and Happy Holiday Season!

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sandrapaoli@windermere.com paoliproperties.com **Cell:** 503.580.0160





PHOTO BY JESWIN THOMAS ON UNSPLASH

Adopt-A-Family

f you're looking to give back this holiday season, Dallas Adopt-A-Family is a unique way to offer families a holiday experience they might not otherwise have.

Dallas Adopt-A-Family matches Dallas families with community members, organizations, churches, clubs and businesses who adopt them and sponsor them for the holidays. Each adopted family receives food to prepare a Christmas dinner, as well as a gift for each child in the family ages 0 through 18.

According to the organization's Facebook page, this year more than 108 families so far have been adopted. Last year, they helped over 224 families, 1, 115 individuals and 622 children throughout the holiday season.

For families who need help, sign-up days are Nov. 13, 14, 15, and Nov. 28 and 29 from 4-5:30 p.m. at the Dallas Community Resource Center at 182 SW Academy St., suite 220. Be sure to bring photo ID, as well as clothing sizes and three gift ideas for each child.

For those who want to adopt, complete the Adopt-A-Family form at www.surveymonkey.com/r/DAAFHelp. Adoption packets will be receive via email or mail, and will include all necessary information regarding sizes and gift ideas for the family. It will also include information about how and when to drop off gifts and donations for that family.

Those interested in helping can choose a small, medium or large family size.

For those who want to volunteer with this organization, complete the online form at www.surveymonkey.com/r/DAAFHelp. There are different volunteer opportunities, such as Shopping day, Monday, Dec. 17; Wrapping day, Tuesday, Dec. 18; Donor Drop-off Day, Wednesday, Dec. 19; and Family Pick-up Day, Dec. 20.

Adopt-A-Family is also accepting donations for the organization, such as wrapping paper, ribbon, tape, gift bags, laundry baskets, laundry detergent, toilet paper and \$25 Safeway and Walmart gift cards.

All donations can be dropped off at the DCRC before Dec. 18.

ADOPT-A-FAMILY

To volunteer to help, or to apply to receive help, visit www.surveymonkey. com/r/DAAFHelp.

For questions, or more information, contact the DCRC at 503-623-9664; or contact the Dallas Adopt A Family Committee at 503-569-3852 or dallasadopt1@gmail.com.

Explore New Possibilities

Lang Man





To learn more call: Shellie Berry, Director of Admissions and Marketing for Assisted Living, Memory Care and Health Center or **Lindsey Horton,** Sales and Marketing Director for Independent Living **Terri Zimmerman,** Receptionist

- Health Center/Rehab
 Out Patient Therapy
 Skilled Nursing
 Assisted Living
- Memory Care Center
- Independent Living
- Lodge Residences
- Garden Homes



A Non-Profit Community Founded in Christ Since 1947. All Faiths Are Welcome. 377 NW Jasper St. 503-623-5581・Dallas 点 白 www.dallasretirementvillage.com



DALLAS CHRISTMAS CHEER, 2016

Volunteers deliver 'Christmas Cheer'

ou could call them Santa's elves, because they are bustling with energy and cheer each Christmas Eve.

Some donning Santa hats and all donning smiles, they are the volunteers that make Dallas Christmas Cheer go.

They gather early in the morning each year at LaCreole Middle School where food, books and toy donations await packing and delivering to people in need – more than 1,000 – in the Dallas area.

"Dallas Christmas Cheer is a grass-roots program started by local community members who wanted to make sure children and families in need would not go hungry over the holidays," reads the organization's website. "Christmas Cheer reaches over 300 local families, approximately 1,000 individuals each year; this includes 500 children and 100 senior citizens; these families live in the greater-Dallas area and receive a food box that has enough food for the holiday meal and beyond."

Requests for assistance

Those wanting to help can do more than serve on Christmas Eve morning. Christmas Cheer needs people to run food drives and collect financial donations necessary to provide holiday food boxes. The long-standing nonprofit is run by a volunteer board of directors led by Chairman Warren Lamb and Secretary/Treasurer Sue Lamb, who carry on the work of Warren's father Curt Lamb, the program's manager for four decades. Warren, Sue and their family took over the program in 2000.

DO YOU NEED ASSISTANCE?

You can apply online or download an application at www.dallascc.org/application. Completed applications can be returned to P.O. Box 661, Dallas, OR 97338.

To donate to Christmas Cheer: www.dallascc.org/donate.

For more information: 503-623-3585 or www.dallascc.org.



DALLAS CHRISTMAS CHEER, 2016

Smalls gifts, big impact

t wasn't much money, but to a Dallas resident, it meant the difference between living on the street with no job and making a decent living with a roof over her head.

Mia Mohr, the administrator of the Dallas Community Foundation, said the foundation's grant to the Polk County Resource Center was used to help the woman, who had become homeless and a victim of identity theft. She had an opportunity to land a job, but not having a home made that difficult.

With the grant and other resources, the resource center helped her pay the deposit and first month's rent. She now has stable housing and a good job, Mohr said.

"To a person in crisis, getting that small hand up makes all the difference in the world," she said. "That was a really simple thing that we were able to do because of folks in the community helping out."

Mohr said that is one reason to give to the foundation, because it has a wide reach in the community, giving to causes that fight hunger and domestic violence, and that offer support to youth and senior citizens.

"People in Dallas give to the foundation so that we can support people in our community and help get them back on their feet again," Mohr said.

This year, the foundation reached a key milestone: \$1 million in total giving.

Each year the foundation gives grants to local nonprofit organizations, scholarships to students, and other donations from the variety of funds that it manages. This year, Mohr said they added up the total and were shocked to see the total.

"I think it just blew everyone away. These seemingly small amounts, relatively small amounts each year," Mohr said. "It's those small amounts that turn into a big amount. ... It's like the gifts we get. People don't necessarily consider themselves philanthropists because you have to have money to be a philanthropist. They don't, you know. People give small gifts and it's those small gifts that really add up and help us make a huge difference in the community."

The foundation launched in 1996, and has grown to giving out \$40,000 in grants to nonprofits, \$38,800 in scholarships to Dallas High School students and another \$1,500 from a fund designated for a specific cause. Mohr said the foundation's giving also includes support to civic projects, such as the Dallas High School turf project.

"This milestone demonstrates the foundation's unwavering focus on supporting the livability of the Dallas community," said Bob Brannigan, the foundation's board president. "The foundation board takes its management and fiduciary responsibilities very seriously to assure our efforts are sustained over the coming years."

The foundation's grant application period opens in December and closes at the end of January. For those inclined to donate, Mohr said they can give to established funds, or create a memorial fund to honor a loved one, or one dedicated to a specific cause.

"It's a great gift to give. It's the gift that keeps on giving and can make a very meaningful difference," Mohr said. "It's so refreshing to see how a community can make such a positive difference."

COMMUNITY GIVING

What: Dallas Community Foundation

To donate: Donations can be made by check to the Dallas Community Foundation, P.O. Box 1001, Dallas 97338, or made online at www.dallascommunityfoundation.com/donate.

For more information: www.dallascommunitfoundation.com.



SMITH FINE ARTS SERIES To order tickets call **503.838.8333** Rice Auditorium, Monmouth, OR

Adults | **\$25**

Students | **\$11** At t

1 At the Door | **\$30**

smithfinearts.org



John Gorka

Once heralded as "the trading single-singlettice of the new folk inoveciment" by Rolling Static magazine, John Gorka continues to fly below the pop culture radar despite playing solid-out shows around the world. Speak with any of his fam and one instantially feel their enthusiant and genarice affection. John Gorka's shy, almost self-reflacing stage presence tightfully focuses affection on his single, which were the course of an evening reveal his remarkable depth and diversity. In January of 2010, Gorka released his 14th stadie allum. Trace in Time, offering up a brand new botch of heartfully songs our to atmat he test of time.

"With a tangle of storgs that emittionally connect so all and leave a torder trace, John Gorka structures the cerebranc kieps our soulles agale and fit and recentments as with other scally matters invest to move - houses. We armosphere allower for the leatoner to fiel hit individualized attention, his torical tradeeness, his care for the gentur and his tone processe." - drian Distubrisher Huffington Post (2014)

"There are few contemporture symportures that come anywhice class to the talent of John Gurka. The energy have a way of working on your large after you through you had it all figured out. I will believe to a way they fixed it knows all the works to sum can sing a long with and then one day similar as a walls: light I realize that there was a whole other layer of meaning that Phal





Rainbow Dance Theatre

Rainbow Dance Theatre brings to the Smith Fine Arm stage two works sure to light up the darkest of winter nights. iLumiDance: Origins investigates the development of life on earth utilizing ultraviolet hight and electroluminascent (EL) wire to illuminute creatures first floating in the darkness of the deep-sea, then swimming to the shore, crawling from the water onto land and eventually walking upright on the earth. Next is The Garden of Parhly Delights, inspired by 16th-century Dutch painter Heironomous Bosch's triptych depicting an earthy parafise and humanity's fall from grace. The show is a toru de-force of visual and kinesthetic artistry that brings a three-dimensional power to the myriad images from the painting. Set to an original score by Mexican composer Lency Osmon, the work highlights both the simous grace and the rugged athleticism of RDT's talented ensemble.

"Rambaw Dance Theatre will prepent widely diverse dances from as varied repertury inchaling one part of the "Cammilloge" trilogy dansed to an eclecite scare that combines music from Tasko master Kenay Endo, African persessionists and rap. The dance examine the relationships of readity and visional readity. "Edde Evans: The Spekeman Review

a blast of energy roughly equivalent to that of an asomic pile. "-The Hondula Advertiser Friday, January 11, 2019 - Rice Auditorium magine it's Christmas Morning. You unwrap a beautiful package—*it's a square box carefully decorated in wrapping paper with bows*—and inside is all the local news each week.

A copy of the Itemizer-Observer is waiting. Oh wait! What's this? You can read your local news on your cellphone, too!

Best Christmas **EVER.** The gift of staying informed about your community. Your governments. Your schools. Your businesses. Your neighbors.



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Mention this ad when calling. Call by Dec. 19 to guarantee delivery on Dec. 26. \$10 off regular price.

Recipe:

Date Baklava

Filling

- 2 cups finely chopped walnuts
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 2 (8 ounces) packages chopped dates, finely chopped
- 1 1/2 to 1 3/4 cups butter or margarine, melted
- 1 pound frozen phyllo dough, thawed, trimmed to 15x10 inch

Syrup

- 1/2 cup sugar
- 3/4 cup orange juice
- 1/2 cup honey

Glaze

3/4 cup powdered sugar 1 tablespoon milk

1. Heat oven to 325 degrees. In large bowl, stir together all filling ingredients; set aside. Brush 15x10x1-inch jelly roll pan with butter. Layer 8 phyllo sheets, lightly brushing each with butter. Repeat layering filling mixture and 4 phyllo sheets twice. Top with remaining 8 phyllo sheets, lightly brushing each with butter. Cut diagonally through

Recipe:

Pumpkin Dip

- 1 (8 ounces) package cream cheese, softened
- 2 cups confectioners sugar
- 1 (15 ounce) can solid pack pumpkin
- 1 tablespoon ground cinnamon
- 1 tablespoon pumpkin pie spice
- 1 teaspoon frozen orange concentrate

1. In a medium bowl, blend cream cheese and confectioners sugar until smooth. Gradually mix in the pumpkin. Stir in the cinnamon, pumpkin pie spice and orange juice until smooth and well blended. Chill until serving.

From allrecipes.com. Prepared each holiday season by bookkeeper Dawn Ohren. Enjoyed by all.





first phyllo layer to make 4 dozen diamond

shapes. Bake for 60 to 70 minutes, or until

2. Meanwhile, in a 2-quart saucepan,

medium heat, stirring frequently until mix-

ture comes to a full boil (4 to 5 minutes).

Pour syrup over warm dessert. In a small

bowl, stir together glaze ingredients until

Made by bookkeeper Dawn Ohren, and

a favorite of Itemizer-Observer staff each

smooth. Drizzle over warm pastry.

combine all syrup ingredients. Cook over

golden brown.

Christmas season.

Recipe:

Swedish Sandwich Cookies (Syltkakor)

• 1 cup butter, softened

- 1/2 cup plus 2 tablespoons sugar, divided
- 1 large egg yolk
- 1 large egg, separated
- 2 to 2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 3 tablespoons ground almonds
- 3 tablespoons red currant, strawberry, (apricot, blackberry) jelly (jam).
- Directions

1. Grease and flour cookie sheets (I used nonstick sheets without any issues); set aside. Beat butter and 1/2 cup sugar in large bowl with electric mixer at medium speed until light and fluffy. Beat in egg yolks.

2. Gradually add 1 1/2 cups flour; beat at low speed until well-blended. Stir in additional flour with spoon to form stiff dough. Form dough into two discs; wrap in plastic wrap and refrigerate until firm, at least two hours. (I kept in refrigerator overnight, had to wait for it to soften before I could work with it.) 3. Preheat oven to 375 degrees F. Unwrap one disc and place it on a lightly (heavily!) floured surface. Roll out dough with lightly floured rolling pin to 1/8-inch thickness.

4. Cut dough with floured 2 1/4-inch round cookie cutter. Place cookies 1 1/2 to 2 inches apart on prepared cookie sheets. Gently knead dough trimmings together; reroll and cut out more cookies. (The dough became really crumbly really quickly. Sprinkle cold water on dough if needed to get it to stick together again.)

5. Repeat step 3 with second disc.

6. Cut dough with floured 2 1/4-inch scalloped cookie cutter. (I used the same cookie cutter for both tops and bottoms.) Cut 1-inch centers out of scalloped cookies. (I used a narrow shot glass. A double shot glass would do the trick.) Cut equal numbers of round and scalloped cookies. 7. Beat egg whites in small cup with wire whisk. Combine almonds and remaining 2 tablespoons of sugar in small bowl. Brush each scalloped cookie with egg white; sprinkle with sugar mixture. (I did this step with both sides of the cookie.) Bake cookies 8 to 10 minutes or until firm and light golden brown. Remove cookies to wire racks; cool completely.

8. To assemble cookies, spread about 1/2 teaspoon of jelly over flat side of round cookies; top with flat side of scalloped cookies to form sandwich.

9. Store tightly covered at room temperature or freeze up to three months. Makes 1 1/2 dozen sandwich cookies.

This recipe is from a cookbook in the Mentzer family library and prepared by I-O Editor Emily Mentzer.







ITEMIZER-OBSERVER, 2017

Jinett's ministry still thriving

A house fire claimed the life of her daughter, and people nationwide reached out to support and help her through the loss and grief.

In 2006, she found her opportunity when she took over the Dallas Nazarene Church's clothing closet, then called the "CASA Closet," because it helped meet the needs of foster children in the CASA (Court-Appointed Special Advocates) program.

Yeager transformed it into a resource for the whole community that now takes in more than it can give away. She launched giveaways for back-to-school, Christmas, and for those in need of warm clothing for winter.

"I've always wanted to make sure the community got everything that they need, and I still do, I still make sure that they do," Yeager said. "If we get donations, so much that we can't fit in our rooms, we start pulling it and donating it to other organizations."

Now it's known as Jinett's Free Clothing Closet and if you visit it while Yeager is there, you will walk away with more than clothing — her genuine smile and warm hugs come free, too.

This year's Christmas giveaway is Dec. 15 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Yeager said the closet is her mission, and she doesn't ever tire of it.

"Sometimes I will sit in my car and rest and relax where it's all nice and quiet, and then I'm ready to go again," she said. "That's good enough for me. I don't know why God gave me this ministry, but I'm glad he did."

GIVING BACK

What: Jinett's Free Clothing Closet

Where: Dallas Nazarene Church, 341 NE Kings Valley Highway, Dallas.

When: Monday and Friday, 9:30 a.m. to noon.

For more information or to donate: 503-910-3420; https://www.facebook. com/Jinettsfreeclothingcloset.

DALLAS OREGON

Providing holiday meals to Dallas-area families in need for more than 50 years.

Put Christmas Cheer on your giving list this year!

Make checks to:

CHRISTMAS CHEER P.O. BOX 661 DALLAS, OR 97338

All volunteers are encouraged to bring canned goods when coming to help sort, shop & deliver food boxes on Christmas Eve at 6am at laCreole Middle School.

> More information: **503-623-3585** Coordinators: **Warren & Sue Lamb** - 5013C- Non-Profit Organization

Follow us on Facebook & Twitter !

Recipe: Award-Winning Chocolate Chip Cookies

- 4 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 2 cups butter, softened
- 1 1/2 cups packed brown sugar
- 1/2 cup white sugar
- 2 (3.4 ounce) packages instant vanilla pudding mix
- 4 eggs
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 4 cups semisweet chocolate chips
- 2 cups chopped walnuts (optional)

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Sift together the flour and baking soda, set aside.

2. In a large bowl, cream together the butter, brown sugar, and white sugar. Beat in the instant pudding mix until blended. Stir in the eggs and vanilla. Blend in the flour mixture. Finally, stir in the chocolate chips and nuts. Drop cookies by rounded spoonfuls onto ungreased cookie sheets. **3.** Bake for 10 to 12 minutes in the preheated oven. Edges should be golden brown.

Recipe from allrecipes.com. Baked for all special occasions by account manager Jeff Mentzer. These cookies also were served at the Itemizer-Observer during the Dallas Art & Wine Walk 2018. Try switching out the chocolate chips for white chocolate and add cranberries for a festive twist.



Recipe: Festive Fudge

- 1/2 cup butter
- 1 cup semisweet chocolate chips
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 cups white sugar
- 1 (5 ounce) can evaporated milk
- 10 large marshmallows
- 1 cup chopped walnuts
- 1. Butter an 8x8 inch dish.

2. Place butter, chocolate chips and vanilla in a mixing bowl. Set aside.

3. In a medium saucepan over medium heat, combine sugar, milk and marshmallows. Bring to a boil, stirring frequently. Reduce heat to low and cook 6 minutes more, stirring constantly. Remove from heat.

4. Pour marshmallow mixture over contents of mixing bowl. Beat entire mixture until it thickens and loses its gloss. Quickly fold in nuts and pour into prepared pan. Refrigerate several hours until firm.

Recipe from Guzman family collection and prepared by reporter Jolene Guzman.

Recipe: Pumpkin and Peanut Butter Dog Treats

- 2 1/2 cups whole wheat flour
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup canned pumpkin
- 2 tablespoons peanut butter
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).

2. Whisk together the flour, eggs, pumpkin, peanut butter, salt, and cinnamon in a bowl. Add water as needed to help make the dough workable, but the dough should be dry and stiff. Roll the dough into a 1/2-inch-thick roll. Cut into 1/2-inch pieces.

3. Bake in preheated oven until hard, about 40 minutes.

Recipe from allrecipes.com. Tried by editor Emily Mentzer, taste-approved by Kuma and Kyra.



Celebration Schedule

MONMOUTH

The seven-day Making Spirits Bright event starts Nov. 24 at Main Street Park in Monmouth.

Small Business Saturday will include a holiday bazaar with locally made goods, a series of local musical acts, and light displays of Santa's Workshop and Gingerbread Kids Village.

Downtown businesses will also hold a holiday light competition, resulting in a Griswold Award.

Nov. 30, Western Oregon University will celebrate its 61st annual tree lighting with a parade and other family entertainment. There will be food trucks at this year's event.

SCHEDULE:

Nov. 24: Passport to prizes noon to 4:30 p.m., drawing at 4:45 p.m.

Holiday bazaar noon to 5 p.m.

Kids' Crafts Corner in MaMere's carriage house 1 to 3 p.m.

Nov. 30: Parade through town and WOU campus. Holiday tree lighting ceremony at 6 p.m.

After the parade: photos with Santa, music performances, crafts and cookies in Werner University Center.

Wine, live music and refreshments at the Gentle House on campus. Food trucks at Main Street Park.

For more information, email: monmouthmakingspiritsbright@gmail.com.

DALLAS

It might have been in question briefly, but, yes, the sequoia tree on the Polk County Courthouse lawn will again put on its holiday best this year for the annual tree lighting and visit from Santa on Dec. 7 for Winterfest.

This year, Winterfest will take on a bazaar-like atmosphere with vendors selling holiday-related merchandise, food trucks, music, hot cocoa, cookies and an old-fashioned carol sing-along. Santa will sweep into town during the evening via Dallas Fire & EMS escort to light the tree and to hear the Christmas wishes of good little girls and boys. Festivities begin at 5 p.m. on the courthouse lawn, 850 Main St., Dallas.

INDEPENDENCE

Portland & Western Railroad will bring Santa to the Independence Cinema on Dec. 1.

The annual Santa Train event has expanded to include stations which families can visit while they wait to see the big man. Festivities start at 1 p.m. in front of the Independence Cinema on Second Street.

FALLS CITY

The first Saturday of December is the kickoff to the Christmas season in Falls City as people gather that evening at Mountain Gospel Fellowship, 257 N. Main St. for the annual tree lighting. Enjoy hot chocolate, snacks and caroling before the tree lighting at 6 p.m.











ITEMIZER-OBSERVER, 2017



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Holiday season brings out the warm and fuzzies

longstanding Dallas tradition started with a community service project about 26 years ago. "My kids were in 4-H and wanted to have a community service project," said Deb Darr, who heads The Darr Family's "warm and fuzzy" clothing drive.

"They went and talked to people in nursing homes to find out what they need and couldn't buy," she said.

Gloves, socks and hats topped the list.

It took a couple of years to settle on a location that was conducive to donations, she said, and eventually landed at Starline Bowling in Dallas.

Manager Sabin Gramelt has worked at the bowling alley for about five years and said they get a pretty good flow of donations.

Gramelt said he started getting calls a couple of months ago about when they could start donating.

"It's good what they're doing," he said. The donations expanded to more things that would keep people warm, and includes hats that people knit or crochet.

"It really started mushrooming," she said. "We got lots of donations. We put our phone number in the I-O and people would call us."

Donated items are distributed at different locations in Polk County.

Darr also has called the local schools to let them know when they have children's coats.

"We taught our children not everyone can just go out and buy a coat when they need one," Darr said.

Among the locations "warm and fuzzy"

donations are distributed is Sable House, a shelter for abused and battered women and children in Dallas.

"Sometimes people just come in with the clothes on their backs," Darr said.

Items are also taken to the Union Gospel Mission.

"One of the saddest things that ever happened was I was donating clothes and a man asked for socks." Darr said.

She looked down at his feet and he was wearing shoes, but "it was dead of winter and he had no socks."

HOW TO HELP

"Warm and fuzzy" collections start at the end of November and continue through January.

Warm and clean clothing for all ages, in good and wearable condition, are needed. Items may be new or gently used.

Suggested donation items include coats, sweaters, socks, gloves and hats.

Donations may be dropped off at Starlite Lanes, 394 Main St., Dallas.

For more information: Deb Darr, 503-787-3888.

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ITEMIZER-OBSERVER, 2015

Foundation supports Monmouth and Independence

he Monmouth-Independence Community Foundation has been working to provide financial support for various local programs and activities within the boundaries of the Central 13J School District since 2000.

Anything that may benefit the Monmouth-Independence community and its residents is within the general purpose of the foundation, according to the foundation's website.

Scholarships: Scholarships for university and vocational education are available to Central High school graduates. Money received may be used for books or other education-related expenses, in addition to tuition.

Classrooms: Classroom enrichment grants are available for Central School District teachers. Mini-grants are awarded for creative and innovative ideas for which school district funds are unavailable. Each year as many as 20 projects are funded. Grants are awarded by the Foundation Classroom Enrichment Grant Committee.

Libraries: The foundation supports new programs, services, and collections at the Monmouth Public Library. Typically, money from the foundation is not used to support routine operational costs.

The Independence Public Library uses the foundation's support to acquire books, materials and technological equipment. Proceeds from the Mildred Kane Memorial Endowment Fund are dedicated to children's programs. Funds may also be used for equipment, personnel costs, and the development of adult and children's programs.

School district: The Monmouth-Inde-

pendence Community Foundation has been working to provide financial support for various local programs and activities within the boundaries of the Central School District since 2000.

Museums: The foundation also supports the Independence Heritage Museum, the Polk Historical Society and a fund for Monmouth's 2056 bicentennial celebration.

The Bicentennial Endowment Fund started with a \$2,056 donation and will "accumulate funds to provide Monmouth with a bang-up 200th birthday part in 2056," according to the foundation's website.

The foundation has 15 volunteer directors:

- Vernon Wells, president
- Ben Meyer, vice president

- Stephen Scheck, secretary
- Cec Koontz, treasurer
- Scott McArthur, past president
- Members at Large:
- Don Duncan, WOU retire
- Term Expires Dec-19
- John Hasbrook, Monmouth
- Susan Fuller, Community Representative
- Kevin Raschko, Columbia State Bank
- Don Patten, Manager, MINET

• Forrest Bell, Former Superintendent, Central School District

• Marilyn Morton, Independence City Council,

HOW TO HELP

For more information or to donate: visit mifoundation.net.



ITEMIZER-OBSERVER, 2014

Falls City firefighters deliver Santa, toys

very Christmas season, you will find them under a pop up tent in the Dallas Walmart parking lot surrounded by an ever-increasing number of toys. Even when it 17 degrees outside.

It's a tradition for Falls City's Volunteer Firefighters' Association to take a Saturday to conduct a toy drive for Toys for Tots and much more.

This year, the firefighters will set up at Walmart on Dec. 1 and association president John Gilbert said he's continually impressed with the generosity of people.

"Every year, we break our own record. One year, we won't, and we can't be disappointed," he said."It will happen someday, but it hasn't happened yet because people just keep giving."

That is just one event that makes December a busy month for the firefighters.

After the Toys for Tots drive, the firefight-

ers take a trip to the dollar store and buy a small toy for every child at the elementary school. For high school students they pick up hats, colorful socks, ear buds or nail polish.

Gilbert dresses as Santa for those deliveries, and some students notice while others don't. He's performed that gig for 13 years and often shares a laugh with the older students who recognize him. Gilbert said the most touching exchanges is when he gets a serious thank you.

"It's a token gesture to know that we are thinking about them," he said. "Everybody likes having santa give something to them. ... But it means a lot to some of them. It takes you off guard a little bit."

The week of Christmas, also in cooperation with Toys for Tots, they load up Santa and his gifts and escort him around Falls City so he can deliver presents to children in need.

Then, on Christmas Eve, the fire station

opens at 9 a.m. so people can pick up their food boxes from Dallas Christmas Cheer.

"It's a crazy, crazy month," Gilbert said, laughing.

He said the firefighters enjoy the big and small ways they help the community during the holiday season.

"It's a great thing. I wish there were more Christmases in the year," he said. "About every six months — I don't like putting the lights up and down — but having everyone come together."

HOW TO HELP

The Falls City Volunteer Firefighters Association will be at the Dallas Walmart, 321 NE Kings Valley Highway, Dallas, on Dec. 1 collecting toys for Toys for Tots.







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Food banks need holiday donations

hink of your holiday meals — the ingredients needed to make your table festive.

That is what food banks need now to provide their clients with the same Thanksgiving and Christmas joy.

Eddie Nelson, the treasurer of the Dallas Food Bank, offered some suggestions: dinner rolls, gravy packets, cranberry sauce and canned yams.

"All the stuff to go along with a turkey," she said.

Nelson said the Dallas food bank serves an average of 284 families, equaling 1,106 people in a month.

"That is 6 percent of the population of Dallas. So, we have a high need for food in this community," Nelson said.

She said the food bank has enrolled 284 new families as of Sept. 30.

The food bank opened in 1983 as a partnership among local churches. Soon, they figured the need was too great to run out of a church and had to find a permanent location.

Today, the food bank has 35 volunteers to operate it, and strong support from the community through food donations and grants that supplement shipments from Marion-Polk Food Share.

Nelson said the food bank was recently remodeled to allow clients to "shop" for their food, a more efficient use of resources. The work was paid for with a grant.

"They can pick the food that their family would use instead of it just being given to them and have it go to waste," Nelson said. "We find that our families are a lot happier ,and they only take what they need."

The Dallas Community Foundation pro-

vided the food bank with a grant to purchase protein-rich foods.

"To balance out our food baskets, we want to make sure our families have a lot of protein," Nelson said. "With this grant money, we buy peanut butter, tuna, milk, eggs, high protein items so that our families can have the protein they need instead of just eating a lot of carbs."

In addition to food donations, food bank clients have other needs.

Non-food items, like aluminum foil, paper towels, toilet paper, laundry soap, dish soap and personal hygiene items are always needed, too.

"They don't get them on their food stamps, so we've actually written grants to receive some of that so we can give our families toilet paper and bars of soap and dish detergent and that stuff," Nelson said. "Their personal hygiene is really important, too."

Nelson encourages people to recommend the food bank to individuals or families who might need the help.

"There is no age limit as far as people who can access our food bank," Nelson said. "If you do know of a family that's in need, please encourage them to come down and access the food bank."

DALLAS FOOD BANK

Where: 322 Main St., Dallas.

When: Monday through Friday, 9 to 11:30 a.m.

For more information: For those in need of assistance, 503-623-3578.For more information: www.dallascommu-nitfoundation.com.

ELLA CURRAN FOOD BANK

Where: 854 N. Main St., Independence.

When: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 9 to 11:45 a.m.

From more information: ellacurranfoodbank.org; 503-838-1276.

FALLS CITY SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

Where: 205 N. Main St., Falls City.

When: Third Wednesday of the month, noon to 3 p.m.

From more information: www.fallscity-church.com; 503-787-3814.

GRAND RONDE FOOD BANK

Where: 9675 Grand Ronde Road, Grand Ronde.

When: First, third and fifth Friday of the month 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; second Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; and fourth Wednesday 2 to 6 p.m.

From more information: 503-879-3663.

WILLAMETTE VALLEY FOOD ASSISTANCE

Where: 888 SE Monmouth Cutoff Road, Dallas.

When: First four Wednesdays of the month, 1:30 to 6:15 p.m.

From more information: 503-831-5634.

WOU FOOD PANTRY

Where: 347 Monmouth Ave. N., Monmouth

When: Hours vary with school year.

From more information: http://86465.orgsync.com/org/aswou; 503-838-5535.

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followed by: Photos with Santa, music performances, crafts & cookies in WOU's Werner University Center Wine, live music and refreshments at WOU's Gentle House Return to Main Street for food trucks, restaurants, and businesses open late

Want more information?

Look for us on FaceBook! monmouthmakingspiritsbright@gmail.com



Thoughts & Gifts grants wishes

That's the philosophy behind the Thoughts & Gifts Project, the dream child of the nonprofit's founder, Jean Love.

The idea came to her while she was driving to visit her mom for her birthday. A commercial for Toy for Tots came on the radio.

"I was thinking about how generous and how great it is that people are so forthcoming in making sure kids have Christmas," Love said. "That next thought was, what about the other 364 days a year? There are other times that kids should be recognized, like their birthdays."

She spent the remainder of the two-hour drive thinking about creating an organization that would do just that. By the time she returned from a weekend with her mom, Love approached her husband, Tommy.

"I said, 'Hey, honey, I have this idea," Love said.

Soon it expanded to include seniors 65 and older.

"I was very close with both sets of my grandparents," Love explained. "The more I thought about it, the more I wanted to include seniors."

The former director of the Monmouth-Independence Chamber of Commerce stepped away from her career in December 2016 to build Thoughts & Gifts.

"I kept it a secret for lack of a better word," Love said. "I left the chamber in December of 2016 and let people know I had this nonprofit idea that I wanted to start, but was not forthcoming on what that idea was."

Jean and Tommy took that time to research and set up The Thoughts & Gifts Project with a board of directors and 501 (c) (3) status. It launched in May of 2018 with a fundraiser.

Thoughts & Gifts will provide a birthday gift

up to \$30 in value, a personalized birthday card or cards, an age-appropriate book and a joint birthday party with other gift recipients on both ends of the age spectrum.

"Not all children have grandparents around. Not all seniors have grandchildren perhaps, so it's great opportunity for the generations to mix," Love said. "I was very close with my grandparents growing up, and I can't imagine what my life would be like had I not had that connection."

Qualifying to receive a gift and birthday party is simple.

"Our eligibility requirement is if you qualify for federal assistance, you qualify for us," Love said.

For children, the primary parent or guardian needs to sign up the child with proof of the child's age. Seniors can apply themselves up or can be referred by others.

Though Thoughts & Gifts has provided gifts to community members, it has yet to hold its first group party. Love said several people have signed up in November, so she's hoping to hold the first in December.

"There's something about when you're a kid when you can make a wish and blow out a candle for your birthday that brings joy."

GIVING HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

What: Thoughts & Gifts

Where: Polk County Service Club office at 340 S Third St., Independence

When: Tuesdays-Thursdays from noon to 6 p.m.

For more information: www.thoughtsandgifts.org, call 971-600-5026

Santa Train is coming to town

otice: There will be shorter lines to see Santa this year. At least in Independence.

"We're going to have people come in through a ticket booth," said Kim Hanson who helps organize the Santa Train Stations in Independence.

The Santa Train, which takes Santa to the Independence Cinema, has expanded to include stations.

"Typically, in the years past, there would be a line blocks long, and it would take hours to see Santa," Hanson said.

The group of volunteers who is putting on the event decided to give families numbered tickets and call them up in groups to get in line to see Santa.

Meanwhile, families can visit different stations, which will include a toy depot, hotdogs, and a cookie decorating stations.

There also will be a place to drop letters for Santa.

"We decided to change the name from Santa Train to Santa Train Stations and make it feel like an old-school train station," said Traci Cathcart, who also is helping to organize the event. "We're looking to do depots instead of just having booths."

It's still totally free, fellow organizer Kim Landis added.

Portland & Western engineer Zach Van Patten will drive the train that brings Santa to Independence.

Hanson said the whole event is made possible by community sponsors and fundraising.

The group wants people to know that everyone is welcome; it's not just an Independence event.

"This is just where the train has the ability to stop," Cathcart said.

"There's a train track and we have to stay on the train track," she added with a laugh.

Portland & Western donates the train and even decorates it.

Each family gets a free photo with Santa, Cathcart said. Wilbur-Ellis pays for the photo development, and photos will be available within a week at the Independence Public Library.

The library also still has photos from past Santa Train events available for pickup.

"We wanted, I guess, children and families to be able to experience every aspect of the holidays," Landis said.

Every kid gets a toy.

The group is still in need of toys for children 2 years old and younger and children 10 years old and older.

"It doesn't have to be anything fancy," Landis said. "(People who wish to donate) can email us. If anybody wants us to come pick up bottles and cans, they can email us."

HOW TO HELP

There is a gift donation box for new unwrapped toys at the Elks Lodge, 289 S. Main St.

Elves will help children pick out toys, which are displayed by age group at the event.

"If anyone in the community would like to volunteer as an elf in one of the different depots, we would gladly let them help with that." Landis said.

For more information: santatrainstations@gmail.com.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO





ITEMIZER-OBSERVER, 2016

Toys for Tots

here is a surplus of ways to give back during the holiday season, one of which is Polk County's Toys for Tots, an organization that collects toys for children from infancy to 18 years of age.

The U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots Foundation began 71 years ago, in 1947, when Marine Corps Reserve Major Bill Hendricks, and the Marines in his reserve unit, collected and distributed 5,000 toys in Los Angeles to children in need after his wife, Diane, encouraged him to start a campaign when realizing nothing of the sort existed.

In 1991, the foundation was established as a not-for-profit charity. It raises funds, purchases toys, provides promotional and support materials, manages funds raised and donated, educates the public and handles day-to-day operations.

Since 1947, the Foundation has been serving youth in states all over the nation and continues to do so today.

Each year, Polk County has a variety of campaigns set up in connection with local

Christmas programs in numerous communities, such as Falls City, Dallas, and Monmouth-Independence. Each community has toy drives, and the communities share to make sure all needs are met. Toys for Tots Foundation will fill in the gaps if any requests haven't been filled.

The campaign's goal each year is to receive new, unwrapped toys during October, November and December to be given as Christmas gifts.

Last year, Polk County's Toys for Tots coordinator Traci Weston said the organization has a "top-five" list of gifts, including soccer balls, bath and body sets for girls, superhero toys, and skateboards.

Financial contributions can be made in lieu of gifts.

All donations, monetary or otherwise, can be dropped off at the Toys for Tots "headquarters" at Fee Mail Depot in Monmouth.

If you're a family who needs help, below is a list of where to go in your community to begin the process of filling out an application to receive aid: Dallas-Contact the Dallas Adopt a Family Program. 503-569-3852

Falls City-Apply at the elementary school or high school offices. For questions, call 503-339-4955.

Monmouth-Independence Residents-Apply in person Tuesdays and Thursdays 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of Independence, 1505 Monmouth St., Independence, though Dec. 8. For questions or appointments on other days, call 503-339-4955.

Help a family's Christmas be holly and jolly by donating today.

Whether you donate money or visit your local shops to buy a gift, either way will be helping a family in need during a time of year that is supposed to be magical.



TOYS FOR TOTS

Donations for Toys for Tots (toys and financial donations) can be dropped off at Fee Mail Depot, 169 S. Broad St. in Monmouth. Hours are Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Donation also can be made at www. toysfortots.org. To ensure donations go to Polk County children, select Oregon, then Polk County.

Toy donations can be made at a several businesses and organizations in Polk County.

For more information: 503-917-9181 or toysfortotspolk@gmail.com.

Monmouth-Independence Christmas Project needs adopters for families in need.

For more information: 503-339-4955, Spanish: 971-388-3328, www.toysfortots.org.

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