



Hundreds of Mormon crickets cling to the side of a residence on West Second Street on Friday in Arlington. Staff photo by E.J. Harris

## CRICKETS: Females are capable of laying more than 100 eggs during the summer months

Continued from 1A

from poisons to predators to building a physical barrier around local homes.

Jordan Maley, extension agent for Oregon State University in Gilliam County, said it is already too late to have much of an effect on this year's Mormon cricket outbreak, but he encouraged everyone to come together later this winter to collaborate on a long-term treatment plan.

"We want to develop a strategy for taking care of these things," Maley said. "They may be around for a while."

In the short-term, residents are left to hose the insects off their garage doors and sweep them off their sidewalks. One woman said she has been scooping up the bugs and drowning them in a bucket.

Mormon crickets are not actually crickets, but members of the katydid family. They take their common name from Mormon settlers in Utah, who encountered them while pushing westward. They can grow up to 2-3 inches as adults, hatching from their eggs in the spring and undergoing seven stages of development known as instars, where they essentially outgrow and shed their skin.

"If you've ever seen one of these things, they're horrendous looking," Maley said.

Females are capable of laying more than 100 eggs during the summer months, according to Paul Blom, an entomologist with the Oregon Department of Agriculture. Blom, who is responsible for 18 Eastern Oregon counties, attended Friday's meeting to share a few thoughts about withstanding the infestation.

A multitude of birds and animals naturally prey on Mormon crickets, Blom said, including seagulls, crows, chickens, turkeys, rodents and coyotes. Physical barriers can also work, he added, since Mormon crickets are flightless.

As for chemicals, Blom gave a few options such as carbaryl — commonly sold in stores as Sevin bait. Because Mormon crickets are cannibalistic, the poison kills not



Entomologist Paul Blom, with the Oregon Department of Agriculture, speaks to residents at a town hall meeting about the Mormon cricket outbreak on Friday. Staff photo by E.J. Harris



Mormon crickets congregate on top of a wood pile in the yard of a residence on Hemlock Street on Friday. Staff photo by E.J. Harris

only the insect that took the bait, but others that prey on it as well.

Whatever the treatment plan, Blom said the problem needs to be dealt with collectively by the community. Otherwise, the insects will just keep coming.

"If you've treated your section and no one else does, you've gone nowhere," Blom said. "You guys really have to coordinate and treat it as a big block issue. You will be more successful if you do."

Apart from being a real nuisance in town, the sheer volume of Mormon crickets this year may pose a threat to crops as well. Charlie Anderson, who farms wheat up Blalock Canyon west of Arlington, said this is the most Mormon crickets he's seen over the past decade. And, what's more, they've started chowing down on his fields.

Anderson figures he's already lost 1 percent of his

crop, and at the rate it's going it could be as much as 5 to 10 percent.

"There's too many of them," he said. "I don't think there's enough product to treat this now."

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, or APHIS, does have a Western rangeland grasshopper and Mormon cricket control program that covers federal lands. According to Blom, APHIS will occasionally help state and private landowners, though they are required to split the cost.

Maley said landowners need to be on the lookout this growing season so they can formulate a community-wide plan of attack moving forward.

"Hopefully through this growing season we can build up enough information to find out where these things are, and what we're dealing with," Maley said.

## FATHERHOOD: Is more experience than expertise

Continued from 1A

It may sound like a small change, to shift priorities to accommodate a new human being's presence in this world.

And I am not saying the transformation is heroic. I am only saying it is dramatic.

Out of this metamorphosis come all kinds of fathers who alter the men they were before to fit into a new frame. There are studious conveyors of information, sages of wit and wisdom, buddies up for a good time, mentors guiding in the ways of the world. We all have pieces of these characters in our own fatherhood as we try to impress important values into our children.

And of course we're all hilarious at all times, and will be for all time. Dad jokes are born with the baby.

But Father's Day is a good time to recognize that dude your dad used to be. If he's been doing it right — downgrading his own priorities to meet your needs — you may find it hard to believe the stories he has to tell about the days before you

came along. But you'll probably still recognize his character and personality in those tales.

And that's the remarkable part. He has grown no wings nor appendages, but he has become a new person, and that change happened the day he first laid eyes on you.

Fatherhood is far more experience than expertise. He had to stumble along, using the lessons from his life before to try to cobble together a foundation from which you could build your own. He probably messed it up a time or two, and maybe much more often.

But if he was there, building and guiding and trying, give him some credit. Try to connect to the man he was before. If nothing else, it will help you understand the man he became after you arrived.

And for goodness sakes, laugh at one of his jokes.

Daniel Wattenburger is the managing editor of the East Oregonian. Email him at [dwattenburger@eastoregonian.com](mailto:dwattenburger@eastoregonian.com).

Looking Like 107 Years Old?

# LET'ER TUCK!

"Trust your face to an Artist"

- Micro Needling
- Quicklift
- Face Lift
- Skin Care
- Mini Tucks
- Power Peel
- Eyelid Tuck
- Rhinoplasty
- Skin Tightening
- Laser Hair Removal
- Facial Cosmetic Surgery
- Rejuvenation of the Face

**Celebrating 30 Years in Pendleton!**

**Steven L. Neal,**  
(MD, FACS, PC)  
Board certified physician & surgeon  
Fellow of AAFPRS, ACS,  
(541) 276-4160  
702 SW Dorion Ave. • [www.nealmd.com](http://www.nealmd.com)  
Hours: 8:15 a.m. — 5:00 p.m. Mon. - Thur.

# BAKER CHARTER SCHOOLS

EXPERIENCED, TRUSTED, PERSONALIZED EDUCATION FOR GROWING MINDS.

• FREE K-12 public education
• Regional field trips
• Certified teacher home visits
• Customized curriculum

NOW ENROLLING FOR FALL 2017

CALL: 541-519-6225 VISIT: [BakerCharters.org](http://BakerCharters.org)