

Snakes are a gardener's friend

It might be a little early, but when the time comes gardeners should be glad to see snakes glide through the garden. These much-maligned reptiles consume garden pests, including slugs, grubs, mice, voles and rats.

"The vast majority of snakes in Oregon are very beneficial," said Bob Mason, a professor of integrative biology at Oregon State University who specializes in snakes.

Snakes eat a variety of pests. The garter feeds on slugs; the sharp-tailed snake adds grubs to their diet, including the destructive Japanese beetle grub. Rubber boas specialize in eating mice and voles, going down their tunnels after them. And gopher snakes snack on mice and rats.

"I've even had farmers call me up and ask if I had any snakes available," Mason said. Garters are the type of



**KYM
POKORNY**
Your
Garden

snake most often seen by urban and suburban gardeners, he said. Two species of garter snakes are commonly found throughout much of Oregon, except the mountains: the abundant western terrestrial garter snake and the common garter snake. In Western Oregon, a third species is also present, the northwestern garter snake. An aquatic garter snake resides in Southwestern Oregon.

Garter snakes generally breed in the spring and give birth to live young in the late summer or fall. Often, young are not seen until the following spring, after they emerge

from hibernation after their first winter.

"Most young garter snakes don't survive into adulthood," Mason said. "They are killed off by predators, cars and lawnmowers."

To make your property garter snake friendly, Mason advises:

- Walk your lawn before you mow it to scare the snakes into hiding. Lawn mowers are deadly to snakes because they can't hear like we do. Rather, they feel vibrations.
- Provide habitat for snakes if you have room. Old plywood or corrugated metal roofing left loosely on the ground in an out-of-the-way place on your property provides hiding and nesting places for slithering creatures. Old stumps and large rocks also make good snake habitat.
- Don't use chemicals such as pesticides and fertil-

izers in areas used by snakes, including lawns.

• If you have pets, the likelihood of attracting snakes is minimal.

The western rattlesnake, the only species of truly venomous snake native to Oregon, feeds on mice, rats and other smaller animals. Rattlesnakes were once more commonly found on both the west and east sides of the Cascades, however they've largely been killed off on the west side, Mason said.

Learn more about snakes from the OSU Extension publications "Common Garter Snake" and "Attract Reptiles and Amphibians to Your Yard." Mason also recommends the photo-illustrated book, "Reptiles of Washington and Oregon," published by the Seattle Audubon Society and edited by Robert M. Storm and William P. Leonard.

MI TOWN

Does anybody know what time it is?

Hopefully by now we've all sprung ahead and even the pesky digital clocks in our vehicles have been changed over to daylight saving time.

On the positive side: It's wonderful to have more light at the end of our day. Now if only somebody could figure out how to convince our dog and cat to sleep in an extra hour. After all, we let sleeping dogs lie; what about them returning the favor to us?

Friday evening, I was privileged to present the Daughters of the American Revolution ROTC National Defense Medal to Army ROTC Cadet Micha T. Massari at an awards ceremony held in the Memorial Union at Oregon State University in Corvallis.

What an honor it was to



**PATTY
TAYLOR
DUTCHER**
Columnist

be in the company of such bright young men and women as they prepare to go out into the world as members of the U.S. Army. I'm learning so many interesting things and meeting even more interesting people as a member of DAR, and would like to invite any women interested in their family histories to think about membership in this great organization. With all the genealogical information now available online, tracing your family history isn't the time (and money) consuming

procedure it was years ago.

The Winema DAR group meets the first Wednesday of every month in Corvallis. You can find us on the Web at www.DAR.org.

We've all had the time to vote for our selection of the best of our local businesses and organizations, and now we'll find out the choices at the Monmouth-Independence Chamber of Commerce's 50th Annual Community Awards Banquet on Friday at Eola Hills Wine Cellars. Congratulations to Megan Stutzman and Michael Wills, who have already been announced as winners of the Junior Citizen of the Year award.

"Oregon's Main Street: U.S. Highway 99" authors Jo-Brev and Pat Edwards are appear-

ing at the Independence Civic Center on Monday at 7 p.m. Here's your opportunity to learn about the history of the highway that begins at the Columbia River and ends at the California border — and runs right through MI Town. Books will also be available for purchase. If you'd like to take a peek, go to <http://orheritage.org/shop/publications/>.

One of the best signs of springtime is the Soup and Pie Sale at the Monmouth Senior Center. Get ready to savor outstanding homemade soups and pies from the kitchens of the best cooks in MI Town. Mark your calendars for March 19, when good food is available from 11 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. The center is located at 180 S. Warren St. in Monmouth.

PEDEE NEWS

Marguerite Nice reported that her brother, Curtis McBeth, died March 3 at age 75. He was born and raised in Pedee and lived here his whole life, most recently on Burbank Road with his wife Marcie, although he had been in the Dallas Care Center for several years. He was the Polk County animal control officer for several years. His funeral is Saturday at 11 a.m. at Dallas Church, 450 SE Washington St., Dallas.

On the brighter side, Aaron Goetzinger, son of Chuck and Gail Goetzinger, was married to Michelle Eves at Pedee Church on Feb. 28 in a joyous ceremony per-



**ARLENE
KOVASH**
Columnist

formed by Pedee Church's previous pastor, Mitch Lee. Michelle is the daughter of Sid and Sara Eves of Terrebonne, in Central Oregon. After the rehearsal dinner on Feb. 27, Pastor Lee baptized Aaron, who had somehow missed that sacrament even though he'd been a Christian all his life.

— Diane Telfer, who volun-

teers with the Red Cross with her husband, Paul, spent part of Feb. 28 with 100 other Red Cross volunteers going door to door in Salem to stress the importance of smoke detectors and to install them for anyone who didn't have them. Diane said that only 4 percent of homes do not have them, but 40 percent of deaths or injuries from home fires occur in those homes. If any of you reading this do not have smoke detectors, consider getting them as they save lives — it might be yours that is saved.

— Alan and Sue Garton and Sue's sisters, Nancy Dorey of

Seattle and Jan Barsi of Puyallup, Wash., drove down to Klamath Falls for the week of President's Day for the annual Winter Wings Festival, as Sue and her sisters are all birders. More bald eagles fly through the Klamath Falls area than in any other place in the lower 48 states, and the Gartons were hoping to see them all at the festival, but only saw a few, although they saw several birds they hadn't seen before. On their first night, they stayed at the Running Y Resort, where they saw eight to 10 juvenile bald eagles and hundreds of ducks, then on the way home they saw thousands of tundra swans on Klamath Lake.

BIRTHS

Young

Brooke Fallon Young was born to Nathan and Kendall Young of Dallas at 4:54 a.m. on Feb. 19 at Silverton Hospital Family Birth Center.

She weighed 9 pounds, 7 ounces, and was 21 inches long.

Brooke is the couple's first child.

Key

Leela Ocean Key was born to Chad Key and Megan O'Driscoll Key of Dallas at 7:16 a.m. on Feb. 23 at Legacy Emanuel Hospital in Portland.

She weighed 7 pounds, 9 ounces, and was 20 inches long.

Leela joins Blaze, 10.

Grandparents are David and Debra Driscoll of Dallas and Gary Key of Dallas, Texas.

Gillins

Clara May Gillins was born to Luke and Rachel Gillins of Dallas at 7:59 a.m. on Feb. 26 at Salem Hospital Family Birth Center.

She weighed 8 pounds, 10 ounces, and was 20½ inches long.

Clara joins Caroline, 2.

Grandparents are Steve and Brenda Large of Dallas and Mark and Michelle Gillins of Rickreall.

Great-grandparents are Ray and Mary Donnell of Dallas, Joe Johnson of Rickreall, Alda Large of Salem and Leola Gillins of Monmouth.

Music from the Vineyard

Sun. Mar. 15, 1-4 PM
featuring
Irish Laddies
\$5.00 cover & 1 can of food
for the Ella Curran Food Bank
Food may be available
Tasting fees & glasses of wine \$5.00
8175 Buena Vista Road
Independence • 503-428-7115 • www.redgatevineyard.com

RECYCLE

A little effort. A big difference.

West Valley Housing Authority will hold their **Work Session Meeting on Tuesday, March 24, 2015 beginning at 11:30 a.m. at 204 SW Walnut in Dallas, Oregon. The Regular Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 24, 2015 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.**

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.**

**AM, PM,
& Lunch
YOGA**

Teaching inner peace through breath work, flexibility and balance.

All levels & bodies welcome.

Beginning yoga series.

Dallas, Oregon 184 SE Oak St • 999-8016
YOGA www.dallasoregonyoga.com

SONrise Ministries presents in concert:

Evergreen 3 and SONrise

March 14, 2015 • 6pm

Salt Creek Baptist Church
15075 Salt Creek Rd, Dallas, OR

For more information call 503-623-3989
Food and fellowship after the concert. Love Offering.

24 hour Service

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Get Home Safe. Call Your D.D...

Merlin D. Berkey (971) 240-1208

Polk County Museum presents...

Family Day
Sat. March 21st
1:30 til 4 pm

Souvenir Photos \$1 ea.

Admission & Refreshments are FREE!

Welcome one and all to an afternoon of fun-filled experiences!

Take a Step Back In Time
...to the era of pioneers. Help churn butter for home-made biscuits & jam.

For the Young'uns

- Scavenger Hunt
- Play Dress-Up
- Period Costumes

Demonstrations

- Spinning & Weaving
- Quilting & Handwork
- Blacksmithing

Civil War Re-enactors with cannons!

We want to show Polk County our appreciation for their support throughout the year!

560 Pacific Hwy, Rickreall 503-623-6251
<http://polkcountyhistoricalsociety.com>

Keith Weathers & the Salem Concert Band

SOUSA

Anniversary Concert & Birthday Party!

with
Leslie Buys Eck, soprano solo
Tim Sasaki, xylophone solo

3 PM Sunday March 15 Hist. Elsinore Theatre
WWW.SALEMCONCERTBAND.ORG

INDEPENDENCE CINEMA 8
450 S. 2nd St., Independence
Showtimes 503-606-3000
www.IndependenceCinema8.com

Matinees are all shows before 8pm. New pricing for matinees are: Adult \$7.25 Children \$6.75 • Senior \$7.00 Pricing does not reflect 3D showings.

Friday, Saturday & Sunday March 13 - March 15

MCFARLAND (Digital) (PG)	(1:10 4:00)	6:50 9:30*
UNFINISHED BUSINESS (Digital) (R)	(12:50 3:05 5:20)	7:35 9:45*
SECOND BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL (Digital) (PG)	(1:35 4:20)	7:05 9:35*
Disney's CINDERELLA (Digital) (PG)	(11:30 2:00 4:30)	7:00 9:15*
RUN ALL NIGHT (Digital) (R)	(1:25 4:05)	6:45 9:10*
CHAPPIE (Digital) (R)	(1:40 4:25)	7:10 9:40*
FIFTY SHADES OF GREY (Digital) (R)	(1:00)	6:40
KINGSMAN: THE SECRET SERVICE (Digital) (R)	(3:45)	9:20*
THE DUFF (Digital) (PG13)	(12:25 2:50)	7:40
FOCUS (Digital) (R)	(5:10)	9:50*

Monday - Wednesday March 16 - March 18

MCFARLAND (Digital) (PG)	(1:10 4:00)	6:50
UNFINISHED BUSINESS (Digital) (R)	(3:05 5:20)	7:35
SECOND BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL (Digital) (PG)	(1:35 4:20)	7:05
Disney's CINDERELLA (Digital) (PG)	(2:00 4:30)	7:00
RUN ALL NIGHT (Digital) (R)	(1:25 4:05)	6:45
CHAPPIE (Digital) (R)	(1:40 4:25)	7:10
FIFTY SHADES OF GREY (Digital) (R)		6:40
KINGSMAN: THE SECRET SERVICE (Digital) (R)	(3:45)	
THE DUFF (Digital) (PG13)	(2:50)	7:40
FOCUS (Digital) (R)	(5:10)	

Thursday March 19

MCFARLAND (Digital) (PG)	(1:10 4:00)	6:50
SECOND BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL (Digital) (PG)	(1:35 4:20)	7:05
KINGSMAN: THE SECRET SERVICE (Digital) (R)	(3:45)	8:00
INSURGENT (NEC Dolby 3D) (PG13)		
UNFINISHED BUSINESS (Digital) (R)	(3:05 5:20)	8:00
INSURGENT (Digital 2D) (PG13)		
THE DUFF (Digital) (PG13)	(2:50)	
DIVERGENT (Digital 2D) (PG13)	(5:30)	
Double Feature w/INSURGENT INSURGENT (Digital 2D) (PG13)		
Double Feature w/DIVERGENT		
Disney's CINDERELLA (Digital) (PG)	(2:00 4:30)	7:00
RUN ALL NIGHT (Digital) (R)	(1:25 4:05)	6:45
CHAPPIE (Digital) (R)	(1:40 4:25)	7:10

*Only showing 3/13-3/14 Friday - Saturday