

# Get help selecting, planting a tree

Like building a house, planting a tree takes research and planning or the investment can come tumbling down.

But if selected, sited and planted correctly, a tree bestows a lifetime of enjoyment and value.

To help people succeed, Oregon State University Extension Service has introduced a slick, new app for iOS and Android users called Selecting, Planting and Caring for a New Tree. The free app hits your tablets just as tree-planting season gets serious. Homeowners without tablets aren't left behind. A downloadable publication — also free — is available, too.

The "A New Tree" app, as it's known for short, will give you everything you need to know in a touch of the finger to choose and care for a tree and, perhaps most importantly, how to match one to your site. It's a matter of "right tree, right place," said Paul Ries, an urban and community forestry specialist for OSU Extension.

"It comes down to the appropriate species selection for the location," he explained. "You've got to give them room to grow. Don't just pick a tree because it's pretty and then decide where to plant it. That will get you into trouble in the future because it's too big for the site or in soil that's too dry or too wet or otherwise inappropriate."

Authored by Ries and Steve Fitzgerald, Extension forestry specialist, the app



**KYM POKORNY**  
Your Garden

makes life easy with videos, step-by-step graphics, illustrations and full-color photos.

"Typically people think to buy a tree for a specific reason," said "It can be shade, fall color, flowers. But the amazing thing is that trees never just give the benefits you plant them for."

One advantage people often don't consider is the increased value trees bring to their property. Research shows that a house with trees is worth 7 to 20 percent more than a similar one next door without trees, according to Ries. The money saved on heating and cooling can be significant, too. A well-planted shade tree blocks sun in summer to cool a home, while allowing in winter sun to heat the house.

Aesthetics and savings aren't the only reasons to add a tree to your property, however. Hardworking trees help prevent flooding by intercepting rainwater and slowing it down. They also clean the air by removing carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen. Conifers provide wind breaks.

For all of those reasons, Ries encourages a well-planned investment in a tree and offers advice on how to plant it.



PHOTO from Flickr by halfrain

**Trees are valuable investments in the future so get them off to a good start with a new interactive app from OSU Extension.**

Dig a hole that's two to three times the width of the tree's root ball, but only deep enough for the root ball to sit about 2 inches above the ground. A wide hole will allow better root growth and is especially important in compacted soil. The hole should be the same width at the top and bottom.

Use a shovel or other tool to roughen the sides of the hole, which will allow roots to grow into surrounding soil and discourage girdling. Remove any roots or debris.

Be sure to remove twine from trees wrapped in burlap.

Tamp down soil in the bottom of the hole. Place tree in the hole, making

sure it sits above ground by at least 2 inches to allow for settling. The biggest mistake people make, Ries noted, is to plant a tree too deep.

Fill in hole with the soil you dug from it.

Mulch around tree, keeping mulch away from the top of the root ball.

Most trees don't need to be staked because young trees left to stand alone develop a stronger trunk. But an especially weak tree or one planted in a windy area will need to be staked for the first six months to a year. Use two stakes and straps or hose. Don't use wire, which will cut through the bark. Always remember to remove the stakes and ties.

## ANNIVERSARY

40th - Burger



Larry and Tracie Burger will celebrate their 40th anniversary on Feb. 15. The couple was married on Feb. 15, 1976.

## BIRTHS

Wellman

William Wayne Wellman III was born to William Wellman II and Codie Wellman, of Dallas, at 8:17 a.m. on Jan. 11 at Salem Hospital Family Birth Center.

He weighed 7 pounds, 12 ounces, and was 19 inches long.

William joins Wyatt, 3, and Iyla, 1. Grandparents are Darrel and Patricia McDaniel, of Dallas, William and Dana Wellman, of Falls City, and Kelly Weller, of West Salem.

Great-grandparents are Sandy Wellman, of Dallas, and Robert McDaniel, of Dallas.

Marshall

Coleton Jeremiah Marshall was born to Jason Marshall and Stephanie Holland, of Salem, at 6:33 p.m. on Jan. 13 at Salem Hospital Family Birth Center.

He weighed 8 pounds, 3.5 ounces, and was 20.5 inches long.

Coleton joins Conner, 8, and Chasity, 2. Grandparents are Gwen Holland, of Salem, and Doug and Michelle Marshall, of Independence.

Great-grandparents are Margie Holland, of Lebanon, Don and Yvonne Mckechnie, of Monmouth, and Joan Marshall, of Independence.

Hawes

Everett Cormac Hawes was born to Shea and Rachel Hawes, of Salem, at 8:32 a.m. on Jan. 19 at Salem Hospital Family Birth Center.

He weighed 8 pounds, 10 ounces, and was 22 inches long.

Everett joins Wyatt, 5, and Garrett, 3. Grandparents are Randy Wurdinger, of Molalla, Ronna Keeney, of Molalla, and George and Mary Hawes, of Madras.

Stegner

Denessa Rose Stegner was born to Christopher Stegner and Denise Bonneville, of Dallas, at 12:25 p.m. on Jan. 27 at Salem Hospital Family Birth Center.

She weighed 8 pounds, 5 ounces, and was 19.5 inches long.

Denessa joins Ethan, 6. Grandparents are Neva Bonneville, of Dallas, Ray Bonneville, of Sweet Home, and Shawn and Christine Stegner, of Eugene.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Continued from page 8A

TUESDAY, FEB. 16

• **Polk County Coin Club** — 7 p.m., Monmouth Senior Center, 180 S. Warren St., Monmouth. 503-362-9123.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 17

• **Helping Hands Emergency Food Bank** — 10 a.m. to noon, Monmouth Christian Church, 959 Church St. W., Monmouth. For eligible community members; available every Wednesday. 541-404-6517.

• **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., West Valley Hospital (main conference room inside main entrance), 525 SE Washington St., Dallas. 503-623-7323.

• **Bingo at the Farm** — 6:30 p.m., Rogue Farms Hopyard, 3590 Wigrich Road, Independence. All ages welcome. Free; food and beverages available for purchase. 503-838-9813.

• **Brew and BS: The Old Testament** — 7 p.m., St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 1486 SW Levens St., Dallas. A lecture series on the Old Testament. Bring brew of choice — coffee, tea, chai, beer, wine, cider. 435-503-4304.

## MI TOWN

The brightly colored hearts and flowers remind us that Sunday is St. Valentine's Day. Whether we celebrate with candy or flowers or a book or a special card, or good wishes for our family and friends, we all have a special opportunity to thank those who we love and care for. It's a wonderful day to celebrate love and romance and friendship, no matter who we are.

Both the Monmouth and Independence public libraries deserve lots of valentine hearts for providing the best children's programs for our even-younger generation, and as a warm and cozy place to meet with friends and colleagues.

It's not too early to remind everyone that the 10th annual fundraiser for the Inde-



**PATTY TAYLOR DUTCHER**  
Columnist

pendence library is scheduled for March 7 at the Independence Cinema. The featured movie is "The Intern," starring Anne Hathaway and Robert DeNiro, and the festivities begin at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$15 and include refreshments. For more information, please call Betty Plude at 503-551-7687. Tickets are available at the library and the Pink House Restaurant.

Adult Art Nights at the Monmouth library have been lots of fun for those of

us who decided to channel our inner child and enjoy coloring books, with pens and pencils and other supplies donated by the Friends of the Library. It's lots of fun to share the company of people of all ages, have snacks and relax. Adults are welcome to attend the next event — Zentangle Drawing is scheduled for Feb. 25 at 6 p.m. in the community room. Sounds like fun and an opportunity to find out just what Zentangle means.

The Friends of the Monmouth Library have purchased two new museum passes that will be available soon. Here's your chance to see the Evergreen Air and Space Museum in McMinnville, or the Hallie Ford Museum of Art in Salem, at no cost. Please stop by the li-

brary for more information.

During this political season there's a lot of talk about the U.S. Constitution and the Amendments. There's also a great deal of myth and folklore that groups often use when referring to this amazing document that has guided our nation for over 200 years. For those of us who want to know what the Constitution is truly all about, thanks to Gary Huxford (Western Oregon University professor), we have the opportunity to attend a series of six classes that will give us a great deal of insight into the Constitution. We will be meeting Tuesdays at 9 a.m. at the Monmouth Senior Center, and everyone is welcome to attend at no cost. Please call Sue Teal at 503-838-5678 for more information.

## PEDEE NEWS

Amanda Bennett, granddaughter of Pete and La Verne Bennett, returned to Shepherd Air Force base after a six-month deployment to Qatar. One of the first things she did after arriving in the states was to order a bacon cheeseburger. Pork is not allowed in Qatar and she wasn't always sure what the meat was that they were served. Amanda was surprised with an engagement ring when she arrived in Texas. She and Jon Wilson, who is also in the Air Force, plan an October wedding in Texas.



**ARLENE KOVASH**  
Columnist

Last Friday Heidi Russell and Amy Gilson's home-schoolers finished the quilts they'd been working on before Christmas. I wish I could show you the one-patch lap quilts Allana and Alex Russell, and Cameyna and Cambria Gilson made, as they were beautiful. Cambria, 8, finished hers first so she

could give it to her brother Charlie for Christmas.

Last week I was in Belfast, Maine, for an American Agri-Women meeting. My flight was at 8:40 a.m., so I left home at 5 for the two-hour drive — dark, pouring down rain, heavy traffic, spray everywhere. I just knew I wouldn't make it. But I did. Then when I got to the airport, I didn't have my driver's license so used credit cards and was practically strip searched, but I got on!

We were at AAW's past-president Sue McCrum's

gorgeous home — a big farm house in Belfast. Sue and Jay are major growers and processors of potatoes, with Jay developing products like JoJos and other well-known potato products in their kitchen. They also grow for Lay's Potato Chips.

In the Bangor airport on the way home I told them I'd lost my driver's license, but had my government issue Medicare card and Costco card with my photo and they said that was fine and even let me continue on with my TSA preferred boarding pass.



### SPRING HOME GARDEN & CAR CARE 2016

DEADLINE: MARCH 4	1/8 PG.....\$79
PUBLISH: MARCH 16	1/4 PG.....\$147
	1/2 PG.....\$266
	FULL PG.....\$499
	BACK PG.....\$590

**Itemizer Observer**  
CALL HEIDI, RACHEL OR KAREN TODAY!  
503-623-2373



### Did the stork visit you in 2015?

see page 5 for details