

# Place high need plants in plain sight

As you walk from car to doorway, ripe blueberries wait to be plucked, the fragrance of basil reminds you of the pesto planned for dinner, a small slug meets its end before snacking on the lettuce seedlings. Without knowing it, you're practicing permaculture.

And as part of an effort to aid this growing movement, a free new course at Oregon State University this spring may help you learn more.

"Part of permaculture is placing elements for efficient management as you move through the garden," said Andrew Millison, a permaculture instructor in the department of horticulture at OSU. "It's the most efficient garden system."

High-maintenance plants are placed closest to human activity. Lower-care plants go farther away because you don't need to deal with them as much.

"If a gardener pays attention to something, it grows well," Millison said. "If it's in your face, you'll pick a slug off, you'll pluck a tomato, you'll fix a trellis after the wind blows it down. So you place things that need high attention where they'll get it."

Millison, a longtime proponent, practitioner, designer and builder of permaculture systems, will teach a free, online course Intro to Permaculture Design from May 2-30. The massive open online course, or MOOC, is intended for



**KYM POKORNY**  
Your Garden

anyone, anywhere, who wants to take a course from OSU. Registration continues through May 1. About 10,000 people are expected to take the class.

Students will spend two to four hours a week creating their own permaculture design by importing a Google map of their site and using a simple drag-and-draft tool. Through videos, graphics, interactive technology and readings, they'll get an overview of permaculture, learn to do a site analysis, study methods and principles and get into climate-specific strategies.

"I've seen exponential growth in permaculture in recent years because it directly addresses many of the issues that are on people's minds, such as climate change, food security and the alleviation of poverty," Millison said. "It offers solutions to these issues, and this course gives people a way to make a positive impact."

Permaculture is a system of designing sustainable landscapes, Millison said, and encompasses social and cultural as well as ecological ethics.

"When I first got interested in permaculture back in



PHOTO BY FAROUTFLORA

**One of the tenants of permaculture is to put vegetables and other plants that need a lot of attention along pathways or other areas where you spend time so it's easy to take care of them.**

the '90s, I was looking for a way people could live on the planet and provide for themselves in a harmonious way with nature," he said. "That's what permaculture is about. My elevator definition is that it's a sustainable land system."

In the home garden, he suggests:

- **Evaluate the site.** Note the exposure of sun and shade; where soil is dry or wet; areas that are windy or where frost remains longer than other parts of the garden.

- **Plan the garden according to the site,** keeping in mind that highest-maintenance plants go closest to

human activity.

- **Create a diverse habitat** with plants for humans and other living things. Plant vegetables, herbs and fruit. Put in native hedgerows and plants with nectar, seeds and berries. Add water features.

- **Compost woody debris and food scraps on site.** Create fertile cycles by building the soil with compost, which in turn will produce healthy food.

The MOOC is a joint effort of Open Oregon State, OSU Professional and Continuing Education, Oregon State Ecampus and OSU Extension and Experiment Station Communications.

## MI TOWN

That seasonal affliction known as Spring Fever is highly contagious and has hit MI Town like the proverbial ton of bricks. There isn't a single antidote for this bewitching, happy and euphoric state of mind and body, and the best thing we can all do is to go with it and anticipate the good and wonderful days to come. Getting the garden ready and planting flowers ranks right up there with long walks and sharing a cold drink with a good friend on a sunny afternoon.

What's better than a spaghetti dinner? How about enjoying a spaghetti feed and auction and helping support the Polk County Relay for Life this Friday at Christ's Church Methodist and Presbyterian United in Monmouth. Tickets are \$5



**PATTY TAYLOR DUTCHER**  
Columnist

per person, \$20 for a family, and are available from Courtney of Team Her & Him Events at 541-510-4483. The fun begins at 5 p.m. with food service and silent auction. The regular auction is scheduled for 7 p.m. There will be live music as well as an opportunity to bid on local goods, arts and crafts, and antiques. All proceeds will go to the American Cancer Society.

To help reduce the accident rate on our highways, the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) has

awarded the Polk County Sheriff's Office a \$4,000 grant for speed enforcement that is effective through Oct. 5. During 2014, there were 15 speed-related motor vehicle fatalities and serious injury crashes in Polk County. With the change of seasons, our days are getting longer and there are more cars and bicycles on our local roads, so it's important to slow down, stay alert and be more watchful while we're out there on the highways.

The Multicultural Student Union at Western Oregon University invites everyone to attend the 23rd Annual Native American Pow-Wow on April 16 in the Pacific Room at the Werner University Center, on the WOU campus. Dance competitions, traditional cere-

monies and drumming will take place from noon until midnight. There will be a free dinner in the Summit Room from 5 to 7 p.m., and items will be available from vendors as well. Please call the MSU office at 503-838-8403 or via email at msu@wou.edu.

Springtime is the season for engagement and dreams of summertime weddings. Historic Gentle House on the WOU campus has been a traditional wedding site for many years. An open house for prospective brides and friends is scheduled for April 17 from 1 to 4 p.m. There will be wine-tasting, a chance to talk with vendors and to see what's available for your upcoming event. Call 503-838-8673 for more information.

## PEDEE NEWS

Easter in Pedee was beautiful. I was convinced that it would be dark and pouring down rain at the sunrise service at Womer Cemetery, but no, the rain stopped immediately before, and as 34 people gathered between 6:30 and 6:50 to celebrate Christ's rising from the dead, the sky lightened beautifully (we never expect to see the sun, but trust that it is always there). And then, of course, the rest of the day was (mostly) nice. At 7 a.m., the men of the church cooked and served breakfast under the guidance of Shawn Brotherton, and then at 10, more than 80 members, friends, and relatives celebrated at a meaningful Easter service. Pastor Daniel Russell's parents, Jerry and Phyllis Russell, of Pleasant Hill near Eugene, joined the



**ARLENE KOVASH**  
Columnist

congregation for the service and then spent the rest of the day with Daniel, Heidi, and grandchildren.

We have another new baby in the community, at least for a while. Karly Tarvin and Lecil Cisneros welcomed their baby boy, Arthur, to the world on March 30, their first and Karly's mother Shelly Tarvin's first grandchild. The family is moving to Lebanon, where Shelly is working for the Lebanon school district as a teacher's aide.

Principal Daniel Shimek at the Luckiamute Valley Charter School at Pedee reports that four students made the honor roll this last term. Seventh-graders who had a 3.5 grade-point average or higher were Krista Cook, Lindsey Harris, and Havalah Gaither-Lyell. Daniel Albor was the lone eighth-grader who made it. Three students made the list of "Most Improved Students": Taryn Kessel, Montana Friedow, and Daniel Albor. It looks like Daniel made quite a jump, to be one of the most improved and then land on the honor roll. Congratulations to him!

Several local people passed their HAM radio tests under the tutelage of Dean

## BIRTHS

### Torres

Aryanna Kaylee Lynn Torres was born to Anna and Delfino Torres, of Independence, at 8:59 a.m. on March 30 at Salem Hospital Family Birth Center.

She weighed 8 pounds, 7 ounces and was 19 inches. She joins Daniel, 14, David, 11, and Delfino Jr., 3.

### Allen

Preston Leroy Allen was born to Michelle and Nick Allen, of Fort Lewis, Wash., at 6:50 p.m. on March 8 at Madigan Army Hospital, Fort Lewis.

He weighed 7 pounds, 6 ounces and was 20 inches long.

Preston joins Gracie Bufka, 8, and Jackson Allen, 2.

Grandparents are Dave and Dee Bufka, of Dallas, Star and Ted Johnson, of Dallas, and Bill and Dawn Vanderhoof, of Sheridan.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Continued from page 8A

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13

- **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.

- **Polk County Republican Women** — 11:30 a.m., Oak Knoll Golf Course, 6335 Highway 22, Independence. No-host lunch available; everyone welcome. 503-623-5759.

- **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.

- **Free Blood Pressure Check Clinic** — 2 to 3 p.m., West Valley Hospital (surgery admitting area), 525 SE Washington St., Dallas. 503-623-7323,

- **Monmouth Senior Center Music Jam** — 6:30 p.m., Monmouth Senior Center, 180 S. Warren St., Monmouth. Open to the public; musicians of all types welcome. 503-838-5678.

- **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.

- **Dallas American Legion Post No. 20** — 7 p.m., Academy Building, Room 108, 182 SW Academy St., Dallas. 503-831-3971.

**INDEPENDENCE CINEMA 8**

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www.IndependenceCinema8.com

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**Friday - Sunday April 8 - April 10**

MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING 2 (Digital) (PG13)	(12:30 2:50 5:10)	7:30 9:35*
HARDCORE HENRY (Digital) (R)	(12:25 2:45 5:05)	7:25 9:45*
ZOOPTOPIA (Digital 2D) (PG)	(11:40 2:10 4:45)	7:20 9:40*
BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE (Digital) (PG13)	(11:35 2:50)	6:10 9:20*
THE BOSS (Digital) (R)	(12:00 2:25 4:50)	7:15 9:30*
I SAW THE LIGHT (Digital) (R)	(4:30)	9:35*
DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT (Digital) (PG13)	(11:30 2:00)	7:05
MIRACLES FROM HEAVEN (Digital) (PG)	(11:35 2:05 4:35)	7:10 9:40*
GOD'S NOT DEAD 2 (Digital) (PG)	(1:20 4:05)	6:50 9:30*

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**Monday - Wednesday April 11 - April 13**

MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING 2 (Digital) (PG13)	(2:50 5:10)	7:30
HARDCORE HENRY (Digital) (R)	(2:45 5:05)	7:25
ZOOPTOPIA (Digital 2D) (PG)	(2:10 4:45)	7:20
BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE (Digital) (PG13)	(2:50)	6:10
THE BOSS (Digital) (R)	(2:25 4:50)	7:15
I SAW THE LIGHT (Digital) (R)	(4:30)	
DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT (Digital) (PG13)	(2:00)	7:05
MIRACLES FROM HEAVEN (Digital) (PG)	(2:05 4:35)	7:10
GOD'S NOT DEAD 2 (Digital) (PG)	(4:05)	6:50

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**Thursday April 14**

MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING 2 (Digital) (PG13)	(2:50 5:10)	7:30
HARDCORE HENRY (Digital) (R)	(2:45 5:05)	7:25
ZOOPTOPIA (Digital 2D) (PG)	(2:10 4:45)	7:20
BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE (Digital) (PG13)	(2:50)	6:10
THE BOSS (Digital) (R)	(2:25 4:50)	7:15
I SAW THE LIGHT (Digital) (R)	(4:30)	
DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT (Digital) (PG13)	(2:00)	7:00
CRIMINAL MINDS (Digital) (R)		7:00
MIRACLES FROM HEAVEN (Digital) (PG)	(2:05 4:35)	7:10
GOD'S NOT DEAD 2 (Digital) (PG)	(4:05)	
JUNGLE BOOK (Digital) (PG)		7:00

\* Not playing Sunday April 10th

**Oregon Old Time FIDDLERS PUBLIC SHOW**

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