

Slug expert helps combat slimy pests

Oregon farmers battling slugs in their fields will soon have a new ally in Rory McDonnell, a slug and snail expert who joins Oregon State University's College of Agricultural Sciences this summer.

McDonnell comes from a research position at the University of California at Riverside, where he studies novel ways to control the troublesome mollusks. His position is new, one of several made possible by a \$14 million legislative investment in research and Extension work based at OSU.

McDonnell plans to continue his studies on environmentally friendly slug control methods, including plant essential oils and biological control agents such as parasitoid flies and soil-dwelling nematode worms.

His appointment also includes an Extension component, so he'll be partnering with Oregon farmers to try some of his methods in their fields.

Slugs are shell-less land-dwelling mollusks that crawl on their stomachs, and they're a chronic pest in Oregon's farms and home gardens. The main culprit, said McDonnell, is the gray field slug (*Deroceras reticulatum*), a non-native species that was inadvertently brought into the U.S. from Europe.

The slimy critter causes extensive damage in grass seed fields, "but it also feeds on many other crops: brassicas, a wide range of other vegetables, fruits, clovers, hops and nursery plants," McDonnell said. "In effect, it competes with us for food. Just about anything we grow, slugs love to feed on."

Another molluscan pest,



the European brown garden snail (*Helix aspersa*), infests nursery crops. The snail is a quarantine species in Oregon and California, which means plants shipped outside those states' borders must be snail-free.

Poison bait is the mainstay of agricultural slug and snail control, McDonnell said, but it can be expensive to use over large acreages, especially if it doesn't work — which happens often, he said. "So one aspect of my research has focused on identifying new attractants that could aid in trapping pest slugs."

And yes, slugs do love beer — not the alcohol so much as the sugar and yeast, McDonnell said. "Research has shown that the water, sugar and yeast together do the trick."

He is also investigating natural predators, including certain flies, some of them native to Oregon, that prey on slugs. Another potential natural enemy is nematodes, microscopic soil-dwelling worms. McDonnell is currently studying one that kills pest slugs and snails.

Developing more environmentally friendly control strategies, he said, will help not only farmers and gardeners, but Oregon's native slug and snail species, which are beneficial to the environment.

"The banana slug is one Northwest native species that most people would rec-



PHOTO BY CONOR DOLAN
Rory McDonnell, OSU's new slug expert, tracks his wily quarry in his native Ireland.

ognize," McDonnell said. "Banana slugs perform important functions in forested ecosystems, helping to break down decomposing vegetation and return nutrients to the soil."

A native of Ireland, McDonnell has a doctorate in environmental science and has worked to conserve native slugs and snails in his home country. He became fascinated with slugs as a child, when he learned that they have teeth sharper than those of sharks and can crawl unharmed over broken glass.

"I know slugs are not as attractive as butterflies or colorful beetles," he said, "but I guess I just followed my passion. As a result, I am one of the few people in the world who works exclusively on slugs and snails."

He will join the OSU faculty on July 16.

"This is a dream position for me," he said. "Oregon is a great place to be a slug person."

The Oregon legislature in 2015 allocated \$14 million in additional funds to Oregon's three statewide public services, all headquartered at OSU: the OSU Extension Service, Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station and Oregon Forest Research Laboratory.

The funding boosts a base budget of \$118 million for 2015-16 and makes possible new research, development and outreach work in such areas as specialty seed breeding, seafood safety, rangeland ecology, juniper harvest and manufacturing, and community economic development.

MI TOWN

It's great to be back in MI Town again after a weeklong visit with my sisters, Sue and Barbara in Sierra Vista and Bisbee, Ariz. It's been a week of laughter and remembrance, days of reading good books on sunny afternoons, visiting funky old thrift and antique shops, and evenings watching the high desert sunsets and just thankful we are together again.

We will remember the not-so-relaxing days at the beach, when keeping little children safe from harm, tending to mosquito bites and other incidents, none of which were serious. Those laughing, sunburned children we so fretted over now have children of their own, ranging in age from elementary school to college. It doesn't seem that long ago,



but the years have passed more quickly than we all can comprehend.

We've said tearful farewells to our parents and to many friends and family members, we've welcomed daughters and sons-in-law, precious grandchildren and good friends along the way. We're experiencing those inevitable signs of aging — graying hair, aches and pains and occasional memory lapses. We have learned to value the little things — time spent in good conversations with those we love

and respect, a simple supper, a beautiful flower or a poem long-remembered. We enjoyed a baseball game at a historic stadium in Bisbee, where well-known stars like the legendary Satchel Paige once played many years ago. We've set aside perceived snubs and slights from long ago, realizing that in these times we want to concentrate on the future, while remembering all the good things.

A week of relaxation and conversation has given us time and energy to really focus on hopes and aspirations, future events and current plans. A realization that as the years pass, even more changes will occur in our lives and the lives of those we love. None of us want to recapture our "lost youth," nor do we want to go gentle

into that good night. Not yet. There are still new memories to be made and shared.

Springtime is truly a season of renewal, of new life and hopes and ideas. Sharing time with those we love brings even more goodness and opportunity to discover that we have the freedom to spend the time to enjoy the simple things and share them with those we love.

Returning home is sometimes the best part of getting away, watching for the fields and farms surrounding the Eugene airport as the plane comes nearer to the landing strip. There is nothing better than being welcomed by warm and loving hugs and big dogs with wagging tails on a springtime afternoon.

PEDEE NEWS

Sixteen guys from the Pedee area drove to Willow Springs Guest Ranch near Paisley for a weekend of hunting rats, fun, and fellowship April 8-10. The trip, sponsored by Pedee Church and coordinated by Tim Barnhart, included Alex Russell and Leo Mellein who went on their first hunting trip with their fathers, Daniel Russell and James Mellein. Each was thrilled to bag a rabbit which they fried up at later meals. They were quick to offer meat to anyone who wanted it as it tasted too wild for them. The teens (Levi Bault, Glenn Mitchell, and Ryan McNab) didn't bother to cook theirs. Civil War re-enactors David Plett and his friend Kyle were also on the trip and demonstrated the use of



muskets, which weren't quite as efficient as modern weapons, but very interesting for the men to see. The trip was a terrific experience and all the guys are excited about going to "Rat Camp" again next year.

The women of Pedee Church are planning their own event, a "ladies' night out" on April 29, at Jenny Mellein's house. There will be lots of food and fun, so call Heidi Russell at 503-838-2129 to sign up. All

women are invited — not just the church types.

Judy Guida and Jason Ronco were two of 10 members and friends of the Polk County Saddle-ites who went on a great trail ride on April 9, starting at Mill Creek west of Dallas and going up to the top of one of the coastal mountains. The trail climbed in elevation and by lunchtime they had a barbecue set up at the top and were enjoying lunch with a view of Dallas, Sheridan, and the Independence airport, although they couldn't see the Cascades because of the cloud cover.

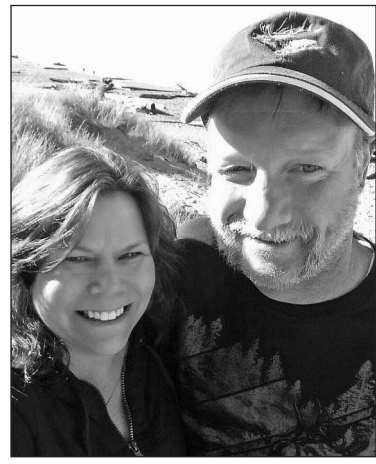
It was a busy weekend. While Judy and Jason were riding and the guys were shooting rats on Saturday, I

went with daughters Suzanne Burbank and Lorraine Odell, grandson Derek Burbank and his fiancée Ashley Grucza, of Redmond, and granddaughters Victoria and Christina Odell to the Wooden Shoe Tulip Festival near Woodburn. The tulips were dazzling, and the weather was good. I think most of Portland had joined us for the event.

On April 10, an old duplex on Cliff and Anne Bault's property burned to the ground. It was at the back of their place near Anne's grandmother Irene Jefferson's old home. It was being used as a storage unit, so didn't burn anyone out of their home, but the Baults were sorry to lose the contents.

ENGAGEMENTS

Marx-Harrington



Ronald S. Marx and Racee R. Harrington, both of Rickreall, will be married on May 14.

Ronald's parents are Ronald and Janice Marx, of Rickreall. Racee's parents are Larry and Mary Harrington, of McMinnville.

The wedding will be at 2 p.m. at Crescent Lake Lodge in Crescent City, Calif.

BIRTHS

Winn

Arllin Dean Winn was born at 9:52 a.m. on April 5 to Jessica Sullivan and Jeremy Kern, of Polk County, at the Salem Family Birth Center.

He weighed 6 pounds and was 18 inches long. Arllin is the couple's first child.

Grandparents are Tom and Shara Sullivan, of Polk County, Donnie Winn, of Polk County, and Sheila Lulnsford, of Marion County.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Continued from page 6A

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27

• **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.

• **Painting, Canvas and Cocktails** — 7 p.m., The Boondocks, 318 N. Main St., Fall City. All supplies, paint, canvas and instruction provided. No experience necessary. \$30, snack and cocktail included. 503-787-2700.

• **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.

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Common Sense Tip **FOR DRIVERS**

CHECK TWICE BEFORE TURNING.

Before turning, always do a double-take for pedestrians. A second or two could save a life — and a lifetime of regret.

Share the Road. The Way to Go. Transportation Safety — ODOT

West Valley Housing Authority will hold their Work Session Meeting on Wednesday, April 27, 2016 beginning at 11:30 a.m. at 204 SW Walnut in Dallas, Oregon. The Regular Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 27, 2016 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, if required.

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.

INDEPENDENCE CINEMA 8

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

Matinees are all shows before 6pm. New pricing for matinees are: Adult \$7.25 Children \$6.75 • Senior \$7.00 Pricing does not reflect 3D showings.

Friday - Saturday April 22 - April 23

BARBERSHOP: THE NEXT CUT (Digital) (PG13)	(11:40 2:00 4:35) 7:10 9:35
ZOOPTOPIA (Digital 2D) (PG)	(11:40 2:10 4:45) 7:20 9:40
THE BOSS (Digital) (R)	(12:00 2:25 4:50) 7:15 9:30
JUNGLE BOOK (Digital 2D) (PG)	(11:35 2:05 4:35) 7:05 9:25
HUNTSMAN: THE WINTER'S WAR (Digital) (PG13)	(1:30 4:10) 6:50 9:25
BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE (Digital) (PG13)	(11:50 3:00) 6:10 9:15
GOD'S NOT DEAD 2 (Digital) (PG)	(1:25) 6:45
THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT (Digital) (PG13)	(4:05) 9:20
CRIMINAL (Digital) (R)	(11:50 2:15 4:55) 7:25 9:50

Sunday April 24

BARBERSHOP: THE NEXT CUT (Digital) (PG13)	(11:40 2:00 4:35) 7:10
ZOOPTOPIA (Digital 2D) (PG)	(11:40 2:10 4:45) 7:20
THE BOSS (Digital) (R)	(12:00 2:25 4:50) 7:15
JUNGLE BOOK (Digital 2D) (PG)	(11:35 2:05 4:35) 7:05
HUNTSMAN: THE WINTER'S WAR (Digital) (PG13)	(1:30 4:10) 6:50
BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE (Digital) (PG13)	(11:50 3:00) 6:10
GOD'S NOT DEAD 2 (Digital) (PG)	(1:25) 6:45
THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT (Digital) (PG13)	(4:05)
CRIMINAL (Digital) (R)	(11:50 2:15 4:55) 7:25

Monday - Thursday April 25 - April 28

BARBERSHOP: THE NEXT CUT (Digital) (PG13)	(2:00 4:35) 7:10
ZOOPTOPIA (Digital 2D) (PG)	(2:10 4:45) 7:20
THE BOSS (Digital) (R)	(2:25 4:50) 7:15
JUNGLE BOOK (Digital 2D) (PG)	(2:05 4:35) 7:05
HUNTSMAN: THE WINTER'S WAR (Digital) (PG13)	(1:30 4:10) 6:50
BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE (Digital) (PG13)	(3:00) 6:10
GOD'S NOT DEAD 2 (Digital) (PG)	(1:25) 6:45
THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT (Digital) (PG13)	(4:05)
CRIMINAL (Digital) (R)	(2:15 4:55) 7:25

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