

Wet weather invited crane flies to invade lawns

Brown and bare spots on lawns in western Oregon – some spanning large areas – are the result of a heavier-than-usual crane fly outbreak.

“Some years are worse than others for crane fly infestations,” said Alec Kowalewski, turfgrass specialist for Oregon State University Extension Service. “Because of the especially wet fall and spring, they are bad this year.”

On the OSU campus, the damage is obvious in several areas. In one, the European crane flies migrated to the sidewalk and died – probably because they wanted to escape the overly wet soil and couldn’t find their way back, said Brian McDonald, senior research assistant in the turfgrass program. If you discover the same thing, he recommends blowing them into piles and using a shovel to scoop them up.

“They will die soon so there’s no need to spray,” McDonald said. “But I would dispose of them because they’ll begin smelling really bad once they’re dead.”

Short-lived adult European crane flies – people often call them mosquito



KYM POKORNY
Your Garden

eaters, though they aren’t – emerge in August to lay eggs in lawn. The eggs hatch into the wormlike larvae or “leatherjackets,” which feed on the roots and crowns of the grass in late fall and early spring.

“To repair from the damage these insects have caused, the best thing to do is to start building your lawn back up with seed and fertilizer,” Kowalewski said. “Proper mowing, fertilization and irrigation will increase your lawn’s tolerance to the pest, preventing visible damage in the future even when pest populations are relatively high.”

Now through Memorial Day is the optimum time to broadcast seed over the bare spots. Fertilize four to six times a year in spring and fall.

To check for an infestation next fall, dig up a 1-square-foot area of lawn about three inches deep and count the crane fly larvae. If



FLICKR

Crane fly larvae feed on the roots and crowns of grass, leaving bare spots that can be rejuvenated with seeding and fertilizing.

there are 25 to 50 insects, you’ll want to start a control program. They’ll be small and harder to see than at this time of year, but easier to kill.

Turning off irrigation around Labor Day will help keep populations to a minimum because that’s when the adults lay eggs in moist soils.

MI TOWN

We’ve turned the calendar page to the brand-spanking merry month of May, which promises to bring flowers and sunshine and many outdoor programs, and we’re all wishing on stars and dandelion fuzz and four-leaf clovers that we can finally get outdoor projects underway, especially in our rain-soaked vegetable garden beds.

It’s wonderful to see students of all ages participating in baseball, track and other spring sports, and these dedicated athletes show us every day how hard work and competition keeps them healthy and fit. We can learn valuable lessons in teamwork and positive attitudes just from being around our kids and watching them participate in competitions around the community and state.

Springtime at Western



PATTY TAYLOR DUTCHER
Columnist

Oregon University gives us all an opportunity to attend music, dance and theater presentations ranging from vocal recitals to orchestra performances. We are so fortunate to have so many bright and talented shining stars right in our midst – and it’s truly a pleasure to enjoy an afternoon or evening in the company of such young and enthusiastic performers. Many programs are free to the public or the admission price is very reasonable, and an opportunity to show the students how much we appreciate such talent, knowledge and dedication.

May is National Historic Preservation Month – and MI Town residents and visitors are fortunate to not only live in historic communities, but we have access to all kinds of information that’s available to everyone.

Restore Oregon magazine recently published an article featuring the recent restoration of the J.S. Cooper Building in Independence. The article is easily accessed from the city of Independence web site (www.ci.independence.or.us). Tab to Historic Independence, then click on the article. Many other Restore Oregon articles are available on their web site.

This Saturday’s Monmouth Senior Center Community Breakfast has an added treat in store for everyone. The doors open at 8:30 a.m. for those hungry for both local history and

outstanding food. From 9:30 until 11 a.m., you’ll have the opportunity to meet Kyle Janssen, who formerly worked with the Oregon Heritage Commission. Janssen will share his stories of online research about our communities, using archived information from copies of historic Monmouth newspapers from days gone by. Polk County Cemetery Savers will speak of restoration projects of local private cemeteries.

Be sure to visit the Independence farmers markets in the Umpqua Bank parking lot and at the amphitheater to get fresh fruits and veggies for the upcoming week, and don’t forget to stop by the Friends of the Monmouth Library spring book sale in the meeting room for great bargains on books. The Monmouth Garden Club sale will be right outside the meeting room.

PEDEE NEWS

Betty Forry, our favorite 104-year-old, passed away on April 21. She had lived here in Pedee since 1965, when she and her husband Jim moved here from Southern California, which got Jim out of the stress that contributed to his high blood pressure and allowed him to have the Borzoi (dog) he had dreamed of owning. Betty’s life was dedicated to making a happy and comfortable home for Jim, which she did until he died here in Pedee in 1991. Daughter June joined Betty here in 2002. There will be a service for Betty at Womer Cemetery on Saturday at 2 p.m.

Pam Burbank just returned from a week on the



ARLENE KOVASH
Columnist

Hawaiian island of Oahu. Her son and his wife, Jon and Maiya Burbank, gave her the trip for her birthday. The best part of the trip was swimming in the ocean every day and attending a luau. The worst part was a six-mile hike, rated strenuous. A walking stick helped, but Pam returned with a broken shoe. One day they swam in strong waves, where Jon lost his wedding ring in the

rough surf, not to be found after an hour’s search.

The Burbank family was saddened to hear of the loss of Aaron’s brother and sister-in-law Lyle and Terri Burbank’s grandson, Cole Burbank, 16. Cole was the son of their youngest son Matthew and lived in Camas, Wash.

On Thursday, I went with friends Jim and Donna Wernz, of Philomath, to a talk by David Brauner, OSU Department of Anthropology and Ft. Hoskins buff. His talk was titled “Rebirth of a Civil War Military Fort,” and some of the talk was about the Vandenberg’s old house here on Pedee Creek Road,

commonly called the Sheridan House, which was moved back to the side of the fort in 2013. Interestingly, Phil Sheridan never lived in the house, as he was only a lieutenant when he was stationed at Ft. Hoskins, so the house is now called, “The Commander’s House,” as fort commander Captain Christopher Augur lived in it. Because of its ties to both Sheridan and Augur, it is considered one of the most significant houses in Oregon, Brauner told us. At this point, the outside of the house has gone through much renovation at the Ft. Hoskins site, and is scheduled to be renovated on the interior in the near future.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

These Polk County groups would welcome individuals who have time or expertise to volunteer. Organizations that would like to be added to this list should call 503-623-2373 or email IONews@polkio.com.

- AARP Foundation Tax-Aide — 503-930-7636
- After DARC — 503-623-9501
- American Cancer Society Road to Recovery — 1-800-227-2345
- Arc of Polk County — 541-223-3261
- Ash Creek Arts Center — 971-599-3301
- Central School District — 503-838-0030
- City of Dallas — 503-831-3502
- City of Independence — 503-838-1212
- City of Monmouth — 503-751-0145
- Crime Victims Assistance Program — 503-623-9268
- Dallas Area Chamber of Commerce — 503-623-2564
- Dallas Fire Department — 503-831-3532
- Dallas Food Bank — 503-623-3578
- Dallas Kids, Inc. — 503-623-6419
- Dallas Police Department — 503-831-3582
- Dallas Public Library — 503-623-2633
- Dallas Retirement Village — 503-623-5581
- Dallas School District — 503-623-5594
- Delbert Hunter Arboretum — 503-623-7359
- Girl Scouts of Southwest Washington and Oregon — 1-800-338-5248
- Ella Curran Food Bank — 503-838-1276
- Falls City Arts Center — 503-559-6291
- Falls City School District — 503-787-3531
- Family Building Blocks — 503-566-2132, ext. 308.
- H-2-O — 503-831-4736
- HART (Horses Adaptive Riding and Therapy) — 971-301-4278
- HandsOn Mid-Willamette Valley — 503-363-1651
- Heron Pointe Assisted Living — 503-838-6850
- Independence Health and Rehabilitation — 503-838-0001
- Independence Public Library — 503-838-1811
- Kings Valley Charter School — 541-929-2134
- Luckiamute Watershed Council — 503-837-0237
- Luckiamute Valley Charter School — 503-623-4837
- Meals on Wheels — 503-838-2084
- Monmouth-Independence Chamber of Commerce — 503-838-4268
- Monmouth-Independence YMCA — 503-838-4042
- Monmouth Public Library — 503-838-1932
- Northwest Human Services — 503-588-5828
- Oregon Child Development Coalition — 503-838-2745
- OSU Extension Service - Polk County — 503-623-8395
- Perrydale School District — 503-623-2040
- Court-Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Polk County Inc. — 503-623-8473
- Polk Community Development Corporation — 503-831-3173
- Polk County Community Emergency Response Team — 503-623-9396
- Polk County Museum — 503-623-6251
- Polk County Public Health — 503-623-8175
- Polk County Resource Center — 503-623-8429
- Polk Soil and Water Conservation District — 503-623-9680
- Relief Nursery Classroom — 503-566-2132
- SABLE House — 503-623-6703
- SALT (Senior and law enforcement together) — 503-851-9366
- Salvation Army — 503-798-4783
- SMART (Start Making A Reader Today) — 503-391-8423
- Salem Health West Valley Hospital — 503-623-8301
- Victim Assistance Program-Polk Co. District Attorney’s Office 503-623-9268 x1444
- Willamette Valley Hospice — 503-588-3600
- WIMPEG Community Access Television — 503-837-0163

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Continued from page 8A

TUESDAY, MAY 9

- **James2 Community Kitchen Meal** — 4:30 to 6 p.m., St. Philip Catholic Church, 825 SW Mill St., Dallas. Free; everyone welcome. 503-623-8429.
- **James2 Community Kitchen Meal** — 4:45 to 6:30 p.m., Falls City Methodist Church, 242 North Main St., Falls City. Free. 503-787-3371.
- **Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) Club** — 6 to 7 p.m. weigh-in, 7 to 8 p.m. meeting, First Christian Church basement, 1079 SE Jefferson St., Dallas. Meetings offer programs and activities aimed at losing weight. Open to anyone. First meeting is free.
- **Community Lecture: Global Learning** — Bringing the World to WOU — 5:30 to 7 p.m., Western Oregon University Instructional Technology Center, room 205, 345 Monmouth Ave. N., Monmouth. Rob Troyer will present. Free. 503-838-8483.
- **Overeaters Anonymous** — Noon to 1 p.m., Salem Health West Valley, 525 SE Washington St., Dallas. Support group meets in the quiet room/chapel immediately inside the emergency entrance on Clay Street. Dee Ann White, 971-718-6444.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10

- **Polk County Republican Women** — 11:30 a.m., Murphy’s Restaurant, 288 E. Ellendale Ave., Dallas. No-host lunch available; everyone welcome. 503-623-5759.
- **Monmouth-Independence Chamber Forum** — Noon to 1 p.m., Eola Hills Wine Cellars, 501 S. Pacific Highway, Rickreall. Registration is requested to help host site prepare. Forum featuring guest speakers on topics related to strengthening businesses and the community. 503-838-4268.
- **Respite Care** — 1 to 3 p.m., 182 SW Academy St., Suite 216, Dallas. Free child care for parents who need time to run errands, pay bills, etc. Free. Open for children ages 6 weeks to 5 years. 503-877-8473 to reserve space. Diapers are provided.
- **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., Salem Health West Valley (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.
- **Dallas American Legion Post No. 20** — 7 p.m., Academy Building, Room 108, 182 SW Academy St., Dallas. 503-831-3971.

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SEEKING BIDS FROM INTERESTED BUYERS

The City of Monmouth is seeking bids from interested buyers for the city’s property at **152 Warren St. N.** Bid Deadline: May 19, 2017 at 4:00 p.m.

Inquiries should be directed to **Phyllis Bolman, 503-751-0145** or pbolman@ci.monmouth.or.us

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The City of Monmouth is seeking bids from interested buyers for the city’s property at **238 Jackson St. E.** Bid Deadline: May 19, 2017 at 4:00 p.m.

Inquiries should be directed to **Phyllis Bolman, 503-751-0145** or pbolman@ci.monmouth.or.us

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