

# Amaryllis needs push for luscious bloom

The big, beautiful blooms of amaryllis are a wintertime tradition and persuading them to flower couldn't be easier.

Native to Peru and South Africa, the genus Amaryllis comes from the Greek word amarysso, which means "to sparkle." Some botanists believe bulbs were brought to Europe in the early 16th century and arrived in Europe in the 1800s, later moving on the U.S.

The trumpet-shaped blooms in red, pink, salmon, white and multi-colored form atop tall stems that grow rapidly from these large lily bulbs. Strappy foliage accompanies or follows the flowers.

Brooke Edmunds, a horticulturist with Oregon State University Extension Service, has advice on coaxing an amaryllis from bulb to flower, an easy proposition from start to finish.

This time of year, bulbs are commonly available already potted and growing, in kits, or as bare bulbs. Choose bulbs with bright green new growth and without spots or visible damage, she said. Some bulbs may have an offshoot growing from the base. This will eventually grow into a new bulb and can be removed and planted separately.



**KYM POKORNY**  
Your Garden

If you are starting with a bare bulb, find a heavy well-draining pot (lightweight pots will fall over) about 1 inch bigger in diameter than your bulb. Fill the pot two-thirds full with rich, porous soil, preferably with some peat moss and compost. Plant the bulb, keeping the upper one-third of the bulb exposed. Water sparingly until growth appears. Keep the plant above 60 degrees in a sunny area of the house.

New growth will appear a few weeks after planting. When a green shoot emerges, the plants will grow rapidly if watered freely. When the pot becomes filled with roots, apply a dilute, complete liquid fertilizer once a month. The stalk will grow toward the sun or light source, so rotate the pot and stake the stem if it grows more than 20 inches tall. Keep your plant away from heat sources such as furnace vents and wood stoves.

In five to eight weeks after planting, the amaryllis will



<https://flic.kr/p/S4N3zq>

**Sensational amaryllis bring beauty to gray winter days and are easy to grow.**

bloom. Plan for blooms during a particular time by counting back the weeks and planting your bulbs accordingly, Edmunds said.

To keep the bulb healthy for many years, keep the plant growing once it has bloomed. Cut off spent flowering stems and continue to water and fertilize it through the winter and spring. In summer, place the potted plant outdoors and continue to water and fertilize.

In October, stop watering to allow the pot to dry out. The foliage will gradually

turn yellow. Cut off the leaves to within two inches of the soil line. Leave the pot undisturbed. Water only if the bulb begins to shrivel. New growth should appear from the top of the bulb. Then follow the instructions above from the start.

Refrain from repotting your bulb every year, as the plant seems to bloom better when pot-bound. Some growers report about every three to four years, or add new fertile soil to the top one-third of the pot each year.

## MI TOWN

How quickly the days fly by — we've turned another page on the calendar and it's already November. It seems like we were just talking about summer activities and garden projects, and now conversation has turned to Thanksgiving and Christmas plans.

Tax statements arrived in last week's mail, and while our market value increased, our taxes were less than last year. Even though that was a good thing, many of us can't resist the temptation to grouse about and complain about taxes, and wonder if we indeed are getting our money's worth. This year, I read just where all the money goes, and I must admit — we are getting our money's worth.

Tax funds support Central School District, Chemeketa Community College and



**PATTY TAYLOR DUTCHER**  
Columnist

Willamette Educational Service District, and provide good and positive education experiences to everyone in MI Town and surrounding areas. When I see the children waiting at the bus stop every morning, I know that I'm helping them to learn what they need to know to become successful adults. Students of all ages who are continuing with their education or returning to school to follow new career paths also benefit from contributions to Chemeketa, and Willamette ESD helps students with special needs.

Polk County provides government services for approximately \$300 per year; our Polk County Fire District No. 1 gives us fire and medical help almost instantly for about the same amount. We would be between a rock and a hard place without these public servants who are always there for us.

Library services are worth their weight in gold and cost just pennies. MI Town's cities run smoothly and provide us with good government, clean streets and safe sidewalks for less than \$700 per year. The very small amount we pay for the new 4-H and Master Gardener programs is comparable to a nice lunch out, and provides so many benefits to everyone. After taking the time to really think about where our tax money goes and all the good things it pays for, I'm not so grumpy after all.

All community members were invited to meet-and-greet the four finalists for the Monmouth senior center director position last week. Candidates were all very easy to communicate with and shared their individual ideas during the afternoon.

The community breakfast is scheduled for this Saturday at the Monmouth Senior Center, where your entire family can enjoy all-you-can-eat pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, biscuits and gravy at a reasonable cost (\$6 for adults, \$3 for children younger than 12).

It's Homecoming at Western Oregon University, and the Wolves meet Azusa Pacific at 1 p.m. Saturday. Please check the WOU website for more information about all the activities.

## PEDEE NEWS

More than 100 family members, friends, and neighbors honored Darrel and Shirley McBeth at their 50th anniversary open house on Saturday afternoon. Among other family members all three sons, Bob, Monte, and Barry, were there as well as Darrel's mother, Dorothy McBeth, and two of her sisters, Anna Mae Waller and Charlotte Hart, and Shirley's mother, Elizabeth Stout. Darrel's cousins



**ARLENE KOVASH**  
Columnist

Hazel and Wilma came from Newport and brought a beautiful table runner and placemats that they had made themselves. They have a bed and breakfast in Newport, called the

"Shack By The Sea." On Sunday, Darrel and Shirley went to Depot Bay for the night, and said the weather was absolutely beautiful, unlike Saturday.

Alvina Wright and friend George Thompson went to see the movie "Lucky" last week, as Alvina's cousin, Director David Lynch, was in it. Lynch is a well-known writer and director and has directed several movies you'd all recognize, as well

as creating his own television series with a friend, the popular murder mystery Twin Peaks, and its sequel. Look him up on Wikipedia — impressive.

On Oct. 21, I went to granddaughter Christina Odell's concert in Salem. She is a violinist in the Salem Philharmonia Orchestra, and at 17 one of their youngest members. She is a senior at Sprague High School in Salem.

# 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 [10news@polkio.com](mailto:10news@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
- Court-Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Polk County Inc. — 503-623-8473
- 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
- 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.
- Friends of the Dallas Library — 503-559-3830
- Gentle House Gardens, Monmouth — 503-838-2995
- Girl Scouts of Southwest Washington and Oregon — 1-800-338-5248
- 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
- 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 (Sheriff's Auxiliary & 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 10A

### WEDNESDAY, NOV. 8

- **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.
- **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 Warren St. S., 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.
- **Pickleball** — 9 a.m. to noon, Roger Jordan Community Park. Meets on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to noon. Karen Freeman, 503-871-4172.

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