Shakespeare uses the power of plants

From the roses of "Romeo and Juliet" to the lilies of "The Winter's Tale," William Shakespeare mentioned plants 200 times in his plays and sonnets. He knew the power of plants to elicit emotion and help tell a story, especially in the 16th century.

"Plants meant so much to people who went to see his plays," said Rhonda Nowak, an Oregon State University Extension Service master gardener since 2011. "People then were more connected to plants then we are; they used them for medicinal purposes and knew the tales behind them."

In modern times, even people who don't go to plays recognize the quote from "Romeo and Juliet": "What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet." But roses, Shakespeare's go-to plant, come up an additional 95 times. Next in line are oak trees at 36 times, lilies 28, grapes 27 and apples 24. The list goes

As a Medford resident, avid gardener and fan of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in nearby Ashland, Nowak naturally started thinking about Shakespeare's use of plants. Her background fits perfectly: She has a PhD in literary and language arts education and teaches English composition at Rogue Community College.

Shakespeare's use of plants is intentional, as metaphor and symbolically, according to Nowak. Roses,

It's definitely November in

MI Town - with Miss Au-

tumn packing up her bags

and getting ready to go away

for several months. Old Man

Winter is out there, not so

far from our doors. This

week, we're trying to stay out

of the leftover Halloween

ness, wondering what time

fun at our local bazaars is

clocks in the house.



Kym Pokorny Your Garden

for example, stand in for beauty, health, softness, love and elegance. In his works, Shakespeare refers to the white and red Tudor rose to demonstrate the union of the House of York (white rose) and House of Lancaster (red rose) at the end of the War of the Roses in 1485. Though the reference is shaky in terms of historical relevance, he popularized it in "Henry VI," where he credits the Earl of Warwick with a passage that obviously takes place before the alliance:

"This brawl today, Grown to this faction in

the Temple Garden Shall send, between Red

Rose and the White, A thousand souls to death and deadly night!

Though no one knows if Shakespeare was a gardener, he had a gardener's sensibility. He even knew about rose diseases, as revealed in "A Midsummer Night's Dream" where he writes about the Queen of Fairies: "Titania is lucky that she has the other fairies kill the cankers for her!" If only modern-day gardeners had fairies. Wouldn't that be great?

Close in meaning to roses, lilies indicate elegance, purity and innocence, sometimes in a tragic way. In "Titus Andronicus," Titus says about his



https://flic.kr/p/cHgy2J White lilies symbolized innocence and purity in the days

of Shakespeare. daughter Lavinia after she

was violently attacked: "When I did name her brothers, then fresh tears Stood on her cheeks, as doth the honey-dew

Upon a gather'd lily almost wither'd."

"It's a very violent, gory play and yet in one part he introduces the lily," Nowak said. "Her father sees her as being pure and innocent, but after her attack he sees her as withered. It's pretty powerful."

In a less disturbing way, white lilies came to be associated with Christianity, particularly the Virgin Mary, who was often shown holding a Madonna lily in paint-

"The Madonna lily was venerated as a sacred lily because its petals suggested a spotless body and its golden anthers a soul gleaming with heavenly light," Nowak noted.

Nowak has started designing a Shakespeare Garden at Hanley Farm near Jacksonville and this spring will be planting many of the plants mentioned in Shakespeare's plays. She will give tours of the garden, tell the stories behind the plants, talk about plant choices and offer cultivation tips. If interested, contact her at rnowak39@gmail.com or 541-727-8346.

"I think it's fun," said Nowak, who grows about 25 of Shakespeare's plants in her quarter-acre garden. "It adds another layer of interest to gardening. You'd grow certain plants anyway and then enjoy them more because you know they have some meaning in Shakespeare's plays and to the people who saw them."

VOLUNTEER

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
- 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
- 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

Office — 503-623-9268 x1444

- 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
- Willamette Valley Hospice 503-588-3600
- WIMPEG Community Access Television 503-837-0163



PATTY Taylor DUTCHER Columnist

that the money spent goes candy, and talking about the to our residents and local cute and fun trick or treaters who stopped by our homes. organizations. Many grown children and grandchildren We're also trying to get used as well as nieces and to waking up in the darknephews really enjoy receiving something that is unique it really is, and did we reand different. It's a lot of fun member to change all the to watch them put aside the bigger gift items in favor of The Oct. 25 Itemizer-Obtoys and other things hand server listed many commumade by our local craftsmen nity bazaars that will be held and women. Shopping locally is also an excellent way in the coming weeks. All of them look very tempting into stretch your money deed and the best thing and that's something we are all looking for in these unabout shopping for Christmas or birthdays or just for

certain and often scary days.

This Saturday is Veteran's Day, and the Monmouth Senior Center wishes to honor veterans, those who are currently in the military and their families with a free breakfast from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Enjoy pancakes, and scrambled eggs, sausage, biscuits and gravy with your family, friends and neighbors at 180 Warren St. S. If you'd like to volunteer to help with the questions, please call the center at 503 838-5678.

The Second Saturday Family Art Class will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, at the Ash Creek Arts Center, located at 311 Monmouth St. in Independence. Children and parents can learn about 3-D Greeting Cards from Mary Harden. The class is free, and registration is not required.

We've sure enjoyed our

Western Oregon University Wolves Football season, with all the fun of Homecoming activities this past weekend. We will bid the outgoing graduating seniors a fond farewell at the final game against Simon Fraser on Saturday. We are so fortunate to have so many good programs both WOU and our own Central High Schools, where students are encouraged and welcome to participate in team and individual sports. Let's do our best to support our kids and friends and neighbors and help encourage these programs. Check both schools' websites for schedules and more information about upcoming athletic events.

On behalf of the family of Tammy Wagner Jones, we thank all of you so much for your boundless support in your prayers, love, flowers, and cards of condolence. We are also so appreciative of your gifts to the Cancer Action Network of the American Cancer Society and to St. Philips Catholic Church and other charities. We are thankful for the special fellowship meal served at St. Philips Catholic Church following Tammy's service and hosted by St. Anne's Altar Society and the Knights of Columbus. Many hands and welcoming faces greeted our family, friends and our St. Philips Catholic Church family. We are humbled by your love and generosity. The Tiernan and Wagner families "Let all that you do be done in love. 1 Corinthians 16:14

Call us.

The Itemizer-Observer can help you expand your market share and make your business more profitable. Call us at 503-623-2373 and make an appointment with our Advertising Consultants, Heidi, Rachel or Karen.

> Itemizer-Observer ADVERTISING THAT WORKS.

Solution on Page 6A

	4	6	9					3
	5			1				7
		2			3	8	6	
8	6	3		5				9
4				9				9
2				8		3	5	4
	3	1	8			7		
7				6			3	
6					9	2	1	

Sudoku

Difficulty:★☆☆☆☆

	4	3	2	8	1	6	7	5	9	
Row →	5	6	9	3	7	4	8	L	2	
	1	7	8	9	5	2	4	6	3	[↑
Three-	3	4	7	2	8	5	6	9	1	∐ _⊆
by-three	2	1	6	7	4	9	3	8	5	
square →	9	8	5	-(6	3	2	7	4	ਤ
	7	9	1	4	3	8	5	2	0	11
	8	5	3	6	2	1	9	4	7	*
	6	2	4	5	9	7	1	3	8	

How to do Sudoku

Fill in the grid so the numbers 1 through 9 appear just once in every column, row, and three-by-three square. See example above.

The Christian Science Monitor

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Continued from page 10A

TUESDAY, NOV. 14

• "Surviving th Holidays" workshop Cross & Crown Ministries — 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., 1156 SE Holman Ave., Dallas. Cost

• 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.

· Dallas Rotary — Noon, Dallas Civic Center, 945 SE Jefferson St., Dallas. Lunch and speaker. Public is welcome.

 Polk County 4-H Rifle and Pistol Club Orientation — 7 p.m., Polk County Extension Office, 289 E. Ellendale Ave., Suite 301, Dallas. Learn about the White Feathers, a 4-H club dedicated to learning about air rifle and pistol shooting and safety.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 15

· 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. • Day-2-Day Diabetes Support Group — 3 to 4 p.m., Salem

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

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

