

Last in series of popular local gardening columns

by Bill Hansen

Last Sunday evening, after a rather intense lightning show, we were treated to a welcome thunder shower. This event, I think, will bring an end to hot summer days for this growing season.

Although we may yet experience an occasional day of temperatures in the 90's, we are heading into Fall with warm days and cool nights. Vegetables in your garden will also sense the change in climate and will now concentrate on survival by speeding up the maturing process of fruit set on the stalk or vine. One of the reasons that corn grown here in our area is so much sweeter than corn grown elsewhere is that cooler nights

tend to pump more sugar into the kernels. Of course, this process does result in later maturing corn, but I think you will have to agree it's worth it.

Tomatoes which have set on the vine may need some help now to ripen. To accentuate the fact that the growing season is ending, withhold water, unless you need to to keep the plants from dying. Potatoes, too, should not be given extra water now, allowing the vines to die and the

EDITOR'S NOTE: This week marks the end, for this season, of Bill Hansen's 'Vernonia Grown' columns. We know from the response we've received over the last few months that you've enjoyed his gardening

tips as much as we have. Beginning next week we will be featuring two new columns. Beginning September 3, 'Wake Me When It's Over' a general interest column by Charolette Klinger will begin and on September 10 an outdoor column, 'My Neck Of The Woods' will start. These two new feature columns will appear in alternating issues of the Vernonia Freedom. We hope you will enjoy reading 'Wake Me When It's Over' and 'My Neck Of The Woods' as much as we look forward to presenting them.

tubers to mature. This will also help prevent knobby potatoes which is a result of a cycle of drying followed by heavy watering. Of course, if you planted your spuds late, you will need to keep the soil evenly damp until after they bloom.

When I first began these articles, I promised you that I would write them

from planting time right into the harvest season. Harvest has come, and this article will be my last. During the season, many of you took the time to give me encouragement. I appreciated this more than you know. If you learned something in this column that helped you, or if as a result of it, you decided to grow a garden, then I have fulfilled my reason for writing it. If you didn't grow a vegetable garden this year, but plan to next year, you should start on it right now. Tilling the soil and working in soil building compost in late Fall and Winter will give you a decided advantage next Spring. Gardening is one of the very few hobbies which will reward you in so many ways. Exercise in fresh air, no fancy equipment needed, food with incomparable flavor, and a payback of \$5 - \$6 dollars for every hour you invest. So, what are you waiting for?

Shorter classes suggested

To the Editor:

Just a few thoughts on the school problem.

I wonder if the administrators and board have considered shortening the required hours of daily classes, by students spending their class day devoted to the required subjects, school could be out by noon, saving a large amount of money as no lunch program would be needed, thereby

leaving more money available for the classes that will teach kids jobs skills necessary to survive.

Sports, job training, and such could be held afternoons for those who choose to participate.

The kids who want to learn are not the ones seen walking the streets, they're too busy learning.

Oregon law allows any child to be taught at home.

Too many of the things cut from the budget didn't cost the school that much, and could be continued with the help of the involved students and sponsors.

I am not against more money, I just think the powers that be need to look at their priorities a lot closer.

Jerry Sanders
Vernonia

TO THOSE CONCERNED:

Don't forget the potluck, Clark and Wilson picnic. August 29, Camp 18, Elsie, Or.

a newcomer...

LADIES GOLF

Vernonia lady golfers have been quite busy lately having fifteen ladies turn out for their regular Tuesday night golf match. Play for the evening was "Poker" with Lorraine Borst and Vesta King winning.

Thursday morning found twelve of the ladies being hostesses for the Seaside Ladies Golf Club. Fourteen ladies from the Seaside club arrived to tee-off at 10 am. All Vernonia ladies brought gifts to serve as Door prizes. Joyce Kuest made clever stroke counters and donated them for prizes and Glenda Alford's "Cut and Curl Room" donated coffee for the day.

Seaside ladies winning prizes were: Alice Olp, low gross; Betty Girdle, low net; Betty Kyser, longest drive; and Getty Girdle, K.P.. Glenda Alford, Vernonia, had the least putts.

Nichole Michelle Garratt

Nicole Michelle Garratt is Vernonia's newest citizen. Born August 21 at 2:28 pm at home, weighed in at 5 lbs. 15 oz. The proud parents are Steven and Tammi Garratt of Vernonia. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Levings of Aloha and Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Garratt of Gresham. Paternal great grandfather is Roy Garratt of La Cross, Wa. Maternal great grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Deacon E. White of Raleigh Hills and great-great grandmother is Katherine L. McAnally of Dallas, Tx.

The birth attendant was Vernonia's nurse midwife, Mary Self. Several family friends were present to enjoy the blessed event with the happy parents.

More Letters to the Editor on Pg. 6

Neighborhood Gathering

To discuss upcoming
School levy election

Thursday
September 3

7 PM

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Bob & Ruth Cadwallader
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