

Hanging baskets put the color in summer

Hanging a basket filled with colorful plants gives decks and gardens another dimension.

"You'll have color where you wouldn't have any otherwise," said Brooke Edmunds, a horticulturist for Oregon State University's Extension Service.

With all the plants on the market, getting started can be intimidating, she acknowledged. But checking out finished hanging baskets at garden centers or looking through magazines or books can help you figure out the colors and designs you like.

"Think about the finished product — how you'd like it to look — and go from there," she said.

A basket that will be hanging high looks great with trailing plants like petunia, ivy geranium, calibrachoa, alyssum, lobelia, verbena and fuchsia, she said. If you choose a spot where you'll see the entire container, think about the "thriller, filler and spiller" concept, which features a taller plant in the middle,



KYM POKORNY
Your Garden

clumping plants to fill in and trailing plants around the edge.

Thrillers include upright geranium, nicotiana, salvia, daisy and heliotrope. For a more dramatic effect, high-light extra-tall plants like dracaena, small ornamental grasses or cordyline. Around the center choose clumpers like upright geranium, marigold, lantana, mounding petunias, nemesia and coleus.

When designing a hanging container, Edmunds said to determine how big plants will be when fully grown and then choose the number per basket accordingly.

"You don't want to use too many at first or they won't reach their potential," she pointed out. "And too few and the plants will never fill in fully."



Tips for hanging baskets

- **Choose a container** that's not too heavy such as plastic, peat or wire baskets lined with moss or coir. Avoid materials such as ceramic or terra cotta.

- **Don't use soil dug from the garden** because its heavy structure inhibits good drainage, which is essential for containers of any kind. Instead, select a good-quality potting mix. If reusing a basket from the previous year, replace the soil.

- **If the potting soil doesn't contain fertilizer**, mix in a slow-release type when planting. If plants start to look ragged mid-season, apply a water-soluble fertilizer once a week.

- **Leave about an inch of space** between soil and the top of the container to allow room for watering.

- **One way to tell when a basket needs water** is to lift up from the bottom. If it feels light, it's time to water. As a benchmark, do the test once when the basket has been watered so you'll know the difference in weight.

- **To keep the plants looking their best**, pinch off dead flowers at least once a week. Cut back foliage if it starts to look leggy.

Most important, don't mix plants that perform best in shade with those that do best in sun.

"Definitely match plants to conditions or they won't perform well," Edmunds said.

A guide put out by Extension's Master Gardeners offers additional ideas for plants, plus detailed instructions on planting and maintaining a hanging basket.

MI TOWN

Today I'll be reading the IO online as I'm in sunny Miami, to celebrate grandson Mackenzie Kram's graduation from high school. It's been quite a journey for Mack, who has also been awarded an academic scholarship to Miami-Dade College. Mack was diagnosed with autism when very young, and we're grateful for the therapy, education and hard work by his parents, teachers and others who have given him the opportunity to reach these goals.

With Memorial Day weekend just past, we all celebrated the beginning of summertime's arrival to MI Town and throughout our wonderful Willamette Valley. Whether your family traveled to the Oregon coast or to the mountains or down by the riverside for the first swim of the year, those



PATTY TAYLOR DUTCHER
Columnist

three bonus days of sunshine and blue skies were wonderful. Backyard picnics with hot dogs, potato salad and baked beans just seemed to be the perfect combination for a good time for many of us. We proudly flew Old Glory from front porches and lamp posts and took the time to remember and honor all veterans who have given so much to ensure our country's freedom — and sent prayers and good wishes to our best young men and women who are proudly serving in the armed forces all over the world.

What a special treat to discover the Explore Polk County section tucked into last week's *Itemizer-Observer*. Many MI Town's businesses and organizations were featured, as well as some really fun places to go on upcoming days and weekends. Explore Polk County is perfect to share with family and friends who will be visiting during the summertime — and we can plan many wonderful activities without traveling far from home.

This afternoon, stop by the Hamersly Library on the Western Oregon University campus to meet former WOU faculty member and published writer, Kate Ristau. She will be reading from her recently published young adult novel, 'Shadow-girl' from 4 to 6 p.m. Wednesday (today). Signed

books will be available for purchase.

Many MI Town residents remember Howard Wilson and all the good things he did as a volunteer at the Monmouth Senior Center, where he helped with construction and was a good friend to all throughout the years. Howard's memorial celebration will be Monday at 11 a.m. at Monmouth Christian Church, where he was a dedicated member of the congregation.

MI Town will be very busy June 13, when newly-minted university graduates, their friends and family members will celebrate commencement at McArthur Stadium on the WOU campus. The doors open at 9 a.m., with the graduation and commencement exercises at 11 a.m.

FAIRGROUNDS CALENDAR

POLK COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS & EVENT CENTER
520 S. Pacific Highway (99W), Rickreall
503-623-3048 • www.co.polk.or.us/fair

MAY
28 - Dog obedience

JUNE
2 - Market meeting (Kids)
2 - 4-H rifle and pistol practice
4 - Dog obedience
6 - Flea market set-up
6 - Wagon Wheelers

7 - Auto swap meet
7 - Flea market
8 - 4-H archery club
9 - France School of Dance
9 - Open weigh-in
9 - Spring Valley Riders
10 - Polk Soil and Water Conservation District budget hearing
11 - Dog obedience
11 - Spring Valley Riders
11 - Saddle-ites Meeting
12 - Gun show vendor setup
13-14 - Summer gun show
13 - Wagon Wheelers

14-18 - SKP RV rally
16 - France School of Dance
16 - Spring Valley Riders
18 - Fair board meeting
18 - Dog obedience
19 - Hancock Fire training
22 - 4-H archery club
23 - France School of Dance
23 - Spring Valley Riders
25 - Dog obedience
27 - Rev Pro Wrestling
30 - France School of Dance
30 - Spring Valley Riders
Schedule Subject to Change

MILESTONE

Fitch - 100th



Charles H. Fitch was born May 20, 1915, in San Francisco. He has resided in Polk County since 1979. He retired in 1977 as the vice-president of Operations for Aeronautical Radio Inc. (ARINC) from Annapolis, Md.

Charles enjoys going to lunch at Murphy's Grill in Dallas, and he can be seen scooting around Dallas in his golf cart.

His family includes David and Linda Fitch of Reno, Nev., Michael and Jackie Fitch of Clearville, Pa., Richard and Lin Fitch of Cape May, N.J., step-daughter Alison Warman of Thousand Oaks, Calif., and step-sons Brian Bratager of Seattle, and Mack Bratager of Seattle. He has seven grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren.

BIRTHS

Nisley

Allison Faye Nisley was born to Austin and Natalie Nisley of Woodburn at 2:08 p.m. on May 19 at Salem Hospital Family Birth Center.

She weighed 6 pounds, 14 ounce, and was 20 inches long.

Allison is the couple's first child. Grandparents are Scott and LouAnne Wagner of Dallas, and Noel and Emilie Nisley of Hillsboro.

Great-grandparents are Ted and Alice Nisley of Culver, and Larry and Lou Loomis of Independence.

VOLUNTEER CALENDAR

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.

- After DARC — 503-623-9501
- Arc of Polk County — 503-949-5552
- 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 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 — 503-581-2451
- Ella Curran Food Bank — 503-838-1276
- Falls City Arts Center — 503-559-6291
- Falls City School District — 503-787-3531
- H-2-O — 503-831-4736
- 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
- 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 County Court-Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) — 503-623-9268, ext. 1301
- 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

For a complete list visit www.polkio.com

LUCKIAMUTE DOMESTIC WATER COOPERATIVE BOARD MEETING
Monday 7:00 p.m.
June 8th
503-838-2075
Location: Business Office
8585 Suver Rd. • Monmouth

Sudoku solution

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

Gabrielle Haugen
Chosen for 2015 Congress of Future Medical Leaders in Boston MA

A West Salem High School Junior has been nominated to attend the Congress of Future Medical Leaders on June 24-26 2015. The Congress is an honors only program for high school students who want to become physicians or go into medical research fields.

Gabrielle was nominated by D. Connie Mariano, the medical Director of the National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists based on her academic achievement, leadership potential and determination to serve humanity in the field of medicine.

During the three day Congress, she will join students from across the country and hear Nobel Laureates and National Medal of Science Winners talk about leading medical research; be given advice from Ivy League and top medical school deans on what to expect in medical school, witness stories told by patients who are living medical miracles and learn about cutting-edge advances and the future in medicine and medical technology.

Gabrielle is the daughter of Alan and Brenda (a 1979 alumni of Dallas High) Haugen, and the granddaughter of Richard and Renate Armstrong of Dallas, and Lou Haugen of Salem.

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182 SW Academy St, Dallas, OR

Sponsors

- Brixius Jewelers
- Citizens Bank
- Dallas Retirement Village
- Fowler Affiliates
- Home Comfort
- Itemizer Observer
- Liberty Concrete
- Old Mill Feed & Garden
- Oregon State CU
- Polk County Squirrel's Taxi
- The Car Doctor
- Wall Insurance
- West Valley Hospital
- White's Collision Service

• FREE Kids' Activities

Cash & Company
11:30 - 1:00pm

POLK COUNTY BOUNTY MARKET MONMOUTH

Tuesdays
May - October
10:00am - 3:00pm
at Main Street Park
120 Main St E, Monmouth, OR

Live Music each week
WOU Jazz Students - Noon to 1:30

1st & 3rd Tuesdays
• FREE Kids' Activities

Sponsors

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- Petals & Vines
- PCL (Partnership in Community Living)
- Veal Bikes Plus

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