

Vernonia and Banks plan community clean-up days

April 14 for many Vernonia projects

Saturday, April 14, is the day to *Make Vernonia Shine*. Registration for the city-wide clean-up day will begin at 9:00 a.m. at the Providence Health Clinic, the corner of Bridge and Grant.

Many of the projects will depend on cooperative weather, but just in case, bring gloves, metal rakes, wheelbarrows, string trimmers, paint brushes (4" or larger), tarps, etc. Even if

the weather prevents tackling some projects, there will be lots of litter to pick up. Pickup trucks will be in demand, too.

Groups and individuals who signed up early have been assigned to specific projects, but many more hands are needed.

After the event, there will be a barbecue for all participants, at the Scout Cabin.

Vernonia Pride is coordinating the clean-up. For more information, call Donna Gehrke at 503-429-5201.

April 28 is clean-up day for Banks

It's time to get involved! The City of Banks will have its fourth annual Clean-Up Day Saturday, April 28. Sponsored by SWATCO and the Banks Beautiful Committee, free curbside pick up is offered to SWATCO customers.

SWATCO will accept dishwashers, mattresses, stoves, washers, couches, chairs and tables. They are no longer able

to accept refrigerators and freezers. Other materials SWATCO cannot accept are hazardous waste, propane bottles, paints, thinners, tires, food and other organic wastes, and commercial debris.

Items to be picked up need to be at curbside at 8:00 a.m. Senior citizens who need assistance moving heavy items to the curb are urged to call Katie Murdock at 503-324-2034 by Wednesday April 25.

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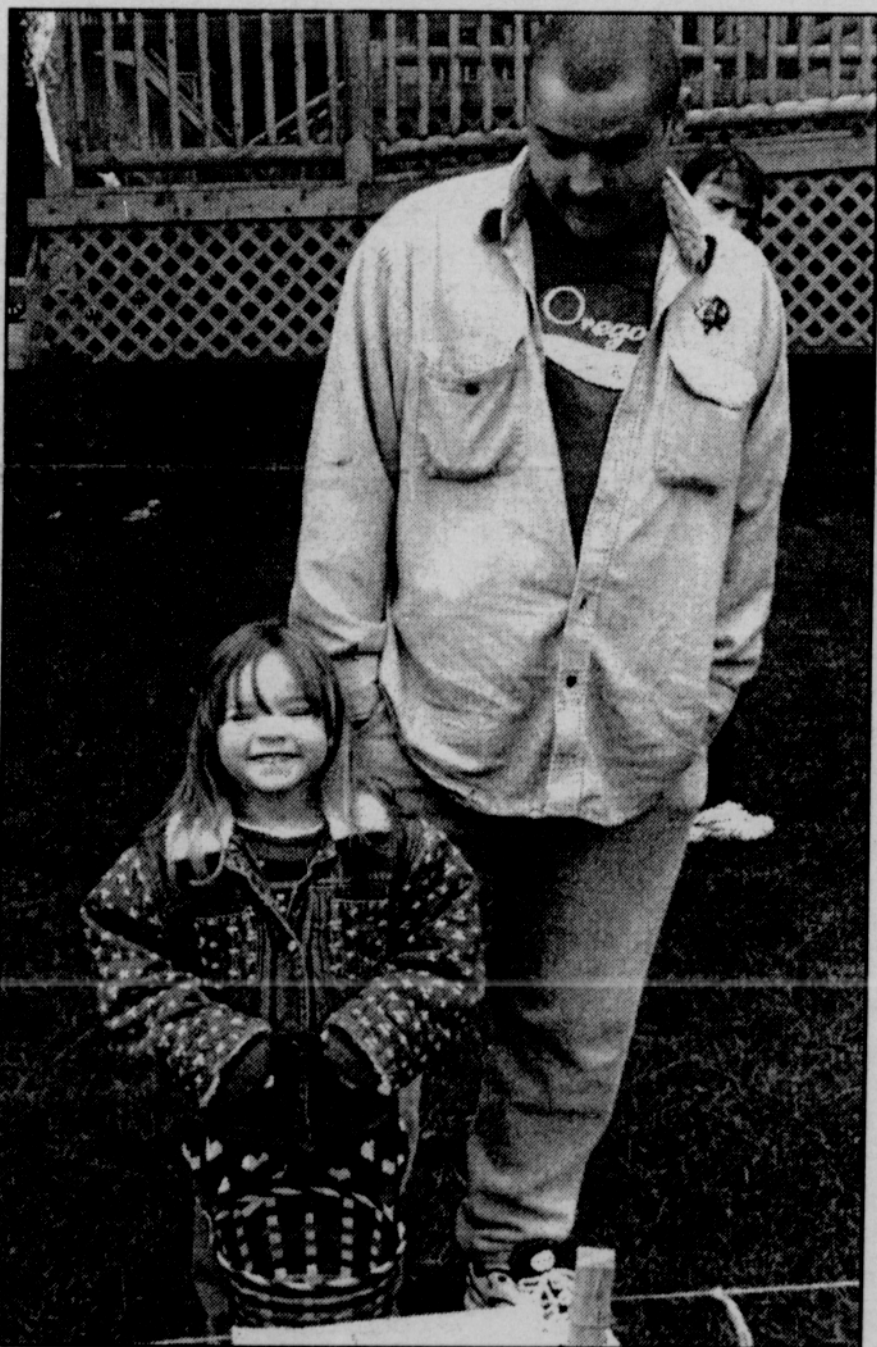
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Who needs eggs?



**Vernonia Easter Egg Hunt
April 14, 2001**

Above: Two eggs are enough if you want to look around, too, 18-month old Tyler Martin seemed to be saying, while he held on to dad for security.

Left: The Easter Egg Hunt hadn't even started, but Sara Wilmot was full of smiles of anticipation under dad's watchful eye.

47J awarded grant for reading program

Vernonia School District has been awarded a grant to beef up the reading curriculum in the primary grades, delighted school board directors were told at the April 12 board meeting.

Open Court, a scientifically-based reading program for kindergarten through third grades will become a reality at Lincoln Grade School in Vernonia, thanks to a Goals 2000 grant of \$18,568 received by Vernonia School District.

The district's application, prepared by Lynn Shaw, Michelle Eagleson, Kirk Sherrill and Robyn Cochran, ranked third in Round 2 of the competition. The competition was very strong in this last year of Goals 2000 funding.

Open Court is a phonics-sensitive reading curriculum that is nationally recognized for improving students' reading proficiency. Preliminary work for training and implementation of the Harcourt curriculum has begun.

The Goals 2000 Reading Grant will provide the following:

1. Two full days of *Open Court* reading program training (includes cost of trainers and hourly rates for staff) for each teacher (regular ed., special ed. and Title One) and each paraprofessional at LGS.

2. One additional day of training for two LGS teachers who will become *Open Court* mentor teachers (includes cost of trainers and hourly rates for staff).

3. Lunch for all involved during the three days of training.

4. Parent classroom volunteers may also attend the training sessions.

5. Kindergarten *Open Court* reading program.

6. Supplementary *Open Court* intervention materials for special education and Title One.

7. K, 1 and 2 consumable replacements.

The district hopes to attain the following goals through implementation of the *Open Court* reading program:

1. Improve reading ability.
2. Increase the percent of students meeting the Oregon Plus Reading Test from 76% to 90% by the end of the second full year of implementation.

3. Create a consistent, faithfully implemented K-2 school-wide reading program.

4. Meet the district and school improvement plans for all Vernonia students to be capable and critical readers.

5. Gain knowledge, skills and material necessary to successfully address the needs of remedial students.

Vernonia School Board meets on the second Thursday of each month at 8:00 p.m. in the school district administration building. The public is invited to attend.

Household hazardous waste collection set

Residents of Columbia and Washington County surrounding the Vernonia area can dispose of various household chemicals at a free Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event on May 12, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the parking lot of Pihl Logging, across Bridge Street from City Hall. This event is sponsored by the Department of Environmental Quality and the City of Vernonia.

Residents of the Vernonia, Mist-Birkenfeld, Manning, Buxton and Banks areas may dispose of a wide range of materials such as auto batteries, antifreeze, paints, pesticides, oven cleaners and furniture polish. With the exception of hazardous waste from businesses, the event is for household hazardous waste only. Explosives, radioactive materials and medical wastes will not be accepted.

Businesses in the same geographic

area may make arrangements to dispose of hazardous waste at this event by pre-registering, no later than April 27, through Phillips Services, 1-800-547-2436. Businesses will be charged a small fee per pound for disposal. Business hazardous waste will not be accepted without pre-registration.

If possible, materials being disposed of should be left in their original containers with labels intact. Leaking containers should be placed in thick plastic bags. All materials should be packed in plastic-lined, sturdy cardboard boxes to prevent leaks and breakage. Materials should not be mixed together. As an additional safety precaution, the materials should be placed in car trunks or in the back of covered trucks en route to the event.

The purpose of the hazardous waste collection is to keep hazardous products

out of landfills and sewer systems. This event will help make area residents aware that such wastes contribute to air, soil and groundwater pollution. This event provides everyone with an environmentally sound option to pouring these materials down the drain or tossing them in the garbage.

Materials collected at the event will be sorted for reuse/recycling (for example, reusable paints, representing much of the collected material, may be donated to community organizations), or shipped to a regulated hazardous waste treatment, storage and disposal facility.

Boy Scouts will be delivering information about the hazardous waste collection to residences in the Vernonia area on Clean-Up Day, April 21, 2001.

For more information, call Robyn L. Bassett, Vernonia Public Works at 503-429-6921.