

Welcome Additions

Larissa Marie Vandehey

Larissa Marie Vandehey was born April 2, 2003, to Sue and Neil Vandehey of Vernonia. She weighed 7 pounds, 2 ounces and was 19 inches long.

Grandparents are Larry J. Vandehey, formerly of Vernonia, now of Baker City, and Peggy and Bill Hynes of Palos Verde, California.

Ashton Holly Smith

Ashton Holly Smith was born March 25, 2003, at Providence St. Vincent Hospital in Portland, to Darcy and Brien Smith. She weighed 7 lbs. 10 oz. and was 19 inches long.

She joins her sisters, Devin and Meagan, at the family's Vernonia home.

Grandparents are William and Margaret Smith of Newberg, Velma Cathey of Laurel, Montana, and Allen Cathey of Bozeman, Montana.

Can You Dig It?

By Schann Nelson



April is a happening month! There are opportunities to get plants at very reasonable prices, get rid of future weeds and pests, and begin to enjoy the yard and garden. We are in the middle of possibly setting another record for consecutive days of rain. Thus, you have to be quick to get outside during those brief periods of sun. But the sun is coming out periodically, and when it does it's gorgeous!

You will also have to be quick to take advantage of the plant sale to benefit the eighth grade trip. Order forms for flats, half-flats, planters and hanging baskets will still be accepted by Kathi Fetch, only, at Washington Grade School on school days until April 25th. Prices range from \$7.00 for a half-flat of 24 annual flowers to \$19.50 for a 20" oval ready-to-sit-on-your porch planter.

Unfortunately, two more great opportunities are the same date – Saturday, April 26th – as the Make Vernonia Shine Day. The Columbia County Master Gardeners Sale, which I raved about last year, will be held in the St. Helens High School Commons. In addition to thousands (literally) of tomatoes, there are lots and lots of other plants and garden stuff, brought in by local vendors. This is a fun show, with no admission fee, raffle items drawn all day

long, classes and clinics. Definitely something that all gardeners should check out.

Finally, our own home-grown plant trade is "coming out of the closet" this year. Hopefully, this will entice people to come and take a look at plants that local gardeners want to get rid of. Let me stress that last phrase, want to get rid of. Every year, when I talk to folks about the plant trade, they say, in a distressed sort of way, "But I don't have anything to bring!," and seem to think that, therefore, they shouldn't come. It turns out that you can have only so much lemon balm, day lilies, grape hyacinths, lambs ears, asters, etc. in your yard and then you have to start digging them up. We would rather give this stuff away to anyone than turn it into animal feed or compost. I don't want to imply that this is all that shows up, because there are always interesting and fun plants.

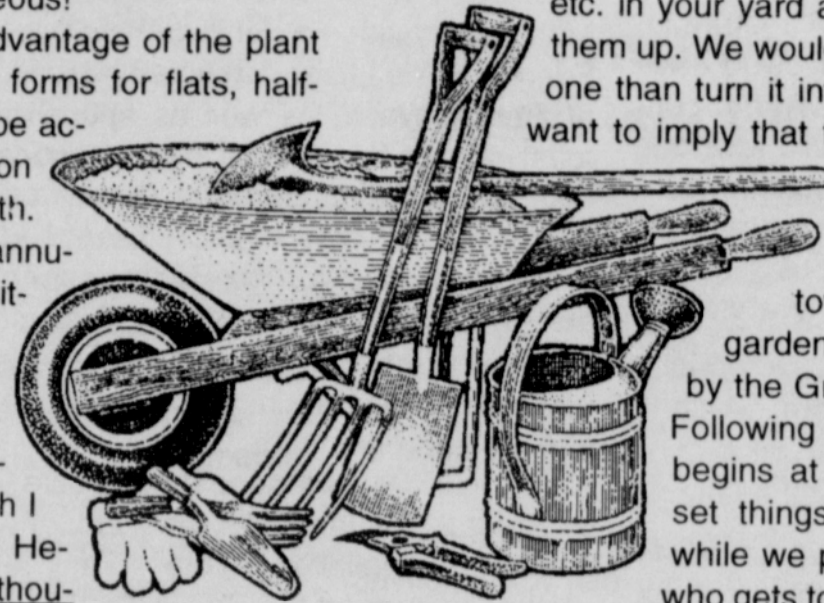
So if, after cleaning up the town, you want to meet other local gardeners and see what is available, drop by the Grange Hall on Saturday, April 26th. Following the established format, the trade begins at 1:00 p.m., when folks arrive and set things out. We have a pot-luck lunch while we peruse the offerings and negotiate who gets to take home the cool stuff. Then we make our selections and are headed home to plant everything by 3:00 p.m. Many of us long-time plant traders started with empty lots and were gifted with interesting and wonderful plants by other gardeners. We would love to continue the tradition and help you turn your yard into a place of beauty and peace.

What do I have planted so far this year? The potatoes are in, this year a selection of different varieties. Also shallots (around an Asian Pear), calendulas, bachelor buttons and cosmos around the garlic bed, two blends of salad greens, leeks, and all kinds of brassicas in pots in the house. Wonder of wonders, about half of my original planting of peas came up and is now about 3" tall. I replanted a couple of weeks ago and those are just starting to peek through the soil. I've weeded the asparagus bed and the shady hosta/hellebore bed and, in an attempt to prevent future weeds, mulched with bark dust and cocoa hulls, respectively. They look great! The cocoa hulls, in particular, look lovely under the flowers but they are more expensive (though the local price is very good). If I just get one bag a month I can probably stay on top of what I can get weeded, have it stay looking good, and not go bankrupt.

I've been thinking a lot about soil temperature this month. Even short sun breaks begin to dry and warm the soil right away and since the temperature of soil is far more stable than air temperature, the soil may well be warmer than you think. For instance, I've scraped the leaf mulch back from the edge of a sunny island bed and planted nasturtiums. The seed packet says to plant when soil temperature reaches 65° – 70°, but I know that when nasturtiums self-seed in my garden they come up early. I also know that the sunny bed will dry out very early in the year. I also know that soil that is 65 degrees will still feel quite cold in my hand. So we'll see what happens.

I've been asked to help with the "Yard of the Month" selection process this year and I'm interested in exploring. If you have a "hidden jewel" you would like to have considered, please let me know.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the people who have complimented me on my articles over the last year. I have a lot of fun rambling on about my garden. I'm truly thankful that others enjoy what I have to say and completely overwhelmed that some of you apparently consider me an expert (which I most definitely am NOT). I hope that you will continue to find helpful information and motivation in my columns, as I continue to share what I to learn about how to make my yard and garden reflect my needs and wants.



Church Directory

VERNONIA FOURSQUARE CHURCH

Pastor Paul Pastor
850 Madison Avenue
Vernonia, 503 429-1103

Sunday Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.
Children's Sunday School

Wednesdays 7:00 p.m.
Evening Service
Youth Ministry
Children's Ministry
Nursery Available

Men's Ministry 7:45 a.m.
3rd Saturday each month

VERNONIA COMMUNITY CHURCH

Grant Williams, Pastor
957 State Avenue
Vernonia, 503 429-6790

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Children's Church w/Nursery
Sunday 6:00-7:30 p.m.
Jr. & Sr. High, AWANA, Adult Study
Nursery provided
Prayer Meeting, Wed. 7:00 p.m.
Women's Bible Study, Thurs. 7:00 p.m.

GRACE REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH

D.J. Dickey, Pastor
Grant & North Streets
Vernonia, 503 429-1919

Sunday Services: Adult Prayer & Children's Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:15 a.m.
Evening Worship 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday Service:
All Family Bible Study, 7:00 p.m.

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Darwin Harvey, Pastor
662 Jefferson
Vernonia, 503 429-4615

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.

Bible Study, Wednesday 7:00 p.m.
Youth & Kids, Thursday 7:00 p.m.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

John Cahill, Pastor
359 "A" Street
Vernonia, 503 429-1161

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship
Saturday, 6:00 p.m.

NEHALEM VALLEY BIBLE CHURCH

500 California Ave
Vernonia, 503 429-5378

Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Nursery available
Wednesday Service 7:00 p.m.

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Pastoral Associate
Juanita Dennis
960 Missouri Avenue
Vernonia, 503 429-8841

Mass Schedule
Sunday 12:00 Noon
Religious Education
Sunday 10:30 a.m.

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

Lee Knowlton, Branch President
1350 E. Knott Street
Vernonia, 503 429-7151

Sacrament Meeting, Sunday 10 a.m.
Sunday School & Primary 11:20 a.m.

Relief Society, Priesthood and Young Women, Sunday 12:10 p.m.

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

Kevin Reiner, Pastor, 543-2254
2nd Ave. and Nehalem St.
Vernonia, 503 429-8301

Sabbath School 9:15 a.m.
Morning Worship, 11:00 a.m.
Prayer Meeting, Wed. 7:00 p.m.

ST. AUGUSTINE (CANTERBURY) EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Rev. Robert Grafe, Pastor
375 North St. (Vernonia Grange Hall)
Vernonia, 503 429-3700

Sunday Services 10:00 a.m.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Joel Stith, Pastor
410 North Street
Vernonia, 503 429-6522

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.

Every Wednesday:
Ladies' Bible Study 9:15 a.m.
Children's Choir 3:00 p.m.
Family Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

Women's Fellowship, 2nd & 4th
Wednesdays, 1:30 p.m.