

Can You Dig It?

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(partially completed) plan is to dig out all the overgrowth, edge the rose closer to the center of the bed and turn the top of that last garden bed (rich with composted manure) over into this poor, depleted, old perennial flower bed, leaving a nice, clean garden bed for fall/winter crops.

I've fallen in love with perlite. According to perlite.com, perlite is "a naturally occurring siliceous rock. The distinguishing feature which sets perlite apart from other volcanic glasses is that when heated to a suitable point in its softening range, it expands from four to twenty times its original volume." It is chemically inert and has a pH of 7. Since volcanic ash is a normal part of soil, this appears to be the perfect amendment to lighten my very thick soil, which currently seems to have an overabundance of decomposed organics. The perlite is working wonderfully mixed into veggie beds, used as mulch on top of pots and beds, and as a rooting medium for cuttings. The best part is that it is sooo light that even I can hoist the whole giant bag of it onto a shoulder and carry it across the yard. Truly impressive!

Just a smidgen of 'science': I've noticed several plants around the yard that show significant yellowing (chlorosis) of their leaves. I know that we have not spread any lime in the yard for at least a couple of years, though there is sporadic application of wood ashes. My theory: Heavy leaching from rain has resulted in a lower than normal pH thus decreasing the availability of calcium, magnesium and molybdenum. Deficiency in any of these elements will cause chlorosis. Availability of these nutrients decreases significantly between 7.0 (neutral) and 6.0, and it's more than possible that I have areas in my yard that have a pH of 6.0 or less. Calcium carbonate (CaCO₃), a compound found in limestone, ashes, bones, and shells, and the primary component of lime, should be added in the fall as it takes time to become effective. Sulphur is a common ingredient in fertilizer but can be leached from soil and a deficiency of sulfur also causes chlorosis. A light application of Calcium sulphate (CaSO₄) now and a through dusting of dolomitic lime should correct the chlorosis.

Now all I have to do is finish the last few flower pots and water every day. Summer bliss in the garden. Enjoy!

Salem Scene

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small percentage of those eligible.

- HB 2189 Requires loan originators to be licensed with the Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services. This brings Oregon into compliance with federal licensing requirements and helps ensure the future integrity of lending practices in the state.

- HB 3004 Prevents lenders or their affiliates from pursuing further action against a second mortgage once the home has already been foreclosed and sold. This applies only to lenders that hold both the 1st and 2nd mortgages. The bill was supported by local bankers and credit unions.

- SB 880 Establishes a personal, corporate and inheritance tax amnesty to run from October 1 through November 19, 2009. The Legislative Revenue Office estimates that the state will net \$16.2 million for 2009-11 biennium.

- HB 2386 Creates a system of online voter registration that is expected to improve voter participation, especially among voters that are traditionally difficult to reach. Joining three other states, Oregon's system is slated to be up and running on March 1, 2010.

- HB 2867 Requires a contracting agency to demonstrate that contracting out for goods

and services will be less expensive than completing the work in-house. Requires agencies to establish measurable standards to assess the quality of a contractor's performance and establish clear consequences for failing to meet those standards.

- HB 2626 I co-sponsored this bill which will provide low interest, long term loans to homeowners to upgrade essential energy efficiency components in their homes or businesses, including windows, appliances, heating and cooling systems, insulation and renewable energy systems.

Finally, Jim Tierney of the Columbia County Community Action Team has informed my office that the Oregon Economic and Community Development Department (OECD) has issued contracts to assist flood victims in Columbia County and the City of Vernonia. The contracts each represent \$500,000. These long-awaited grant awards will be used to match FEMA funds set aside to purchase flooded homes in Vernonia and Columbia County. Homes will be purchased at their pre-flood value as of December 1, 2007. We are thankful that these funds are finally available so that these patient homeowners can continue to rebuild their homes and their lives.

Undoubtedly, this will be my last regular newsletter because we will probably adjourn early next week. However I will continue to keep you informed of important events, both in the Capitol and in the District, as they occur. I want to thank everyone who wrote or called during the session. Your input was enormously important to me and helped inform my decisions. I look forward to seeing you during the summer as I take part in the many events occurring in the district.

Letters

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I would be interested to know the cost of the arrest operations and whether or not those costs could be recovered.

Michael James Scarpitti (alias Tre Arrow), Angela Marie Cesario and Jeremy David Rosenbloom all did time for arson and related crimes. The FBI investigated and closed more than a dozen eco-terrorism crimes dating back a decade including bombings, attacks on research labs, destruction of logging equipment and attacks on federal facilities. Many of those convicted are still serving time.

The ball is in your court!

Ted Ferrioli
State Senator, District 30

Obituary

ROBERT "BOB" JOSEPH CONE



uated from Vernonia High School. He attended Oregon State University and studied Civil Engineering. He worked in the kitchen cabinet industry starting in 1964.

In 1965, he married Margaret A. Mott. They moved to Hawaii in 1973, then to Tigard, where he started his own business, Total Building Products in 1979. In 2004, he sold his company and they retired to West Linn.

Survivors include his wife; two daughters, Mary Cone of West Linn and Jill Cone of Clackamas; his mother, Peggy Cone of Vernonia; and his sister, Patty Cone of Vernonia.

Remembrances are suggested to Oregon State Beaver Athletic Student Fund.

Crown Memorial Center in Tualatin was in charge of arrangements.

BILL MEAD KELLY

Bill Mead Kelly, 90, Gaston,

died July 12, 2009. A celebration of life service will be held Friday, July 17, at 11:00 a.m. at the First Christian Church in Forest Grove, followed by interment in Union Point Cemetery in Banks.

Mr. Kelly was born March 11, 1919, on the Kelly home place in Banks, to William Edgar and Grace May (Mead) Kelly. He was raised in Banks, graduating from Banks High School in 1937. He worked for the O-A Lumber Company in Keasey, in 1937, where he fired a steam donkey. He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II.

In 1945, he married Wanda A. Brink. They made their home in Banks until moving to Gaston in 1996. He worked as a Reforestation Technician for the Oregon State Forestry Department until he retired in 1978.

He was preceded in death by his four brothers, Ellsworth, Lewis, Raymond and Ellis; and his two

sisters, Evelyn Racine and Agnes French.

Survivors include his wife; three sons, Jerry G. of Wolf Creek, Jimmie R. of Gaston, and Philip of Battle Ground, Washington; one daughter, Veronica Kelly of Bend; seven grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; nieces and nephews.

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Remembrances are suggested to the Gaston Fire Fighters Association or to the Gales Creek Camp for Children with Diabetes.

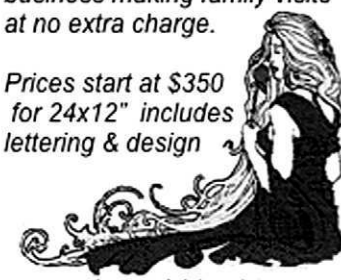
Fuiten, Rose & Hoyt Funeral Home in Forest Grove was in charge of arrangements.

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