

Readers lend their voices...

To The Editor

Your article by Erika Paleck in the November issue on Alice Zimmerman was great and a great artist she truly is. I've had the greatest opportunity to get to know her better just after the December 07 Flood when she with open arms took my family in (and Dogs) and let us stay in the basement of her house. To me I see her as a great woman with a strong will and abundant courage to see things through in life. If you do not succeed one way you just try another route. The Lord has really blessed this earth and Vernonia with a wonderful artist that is willing to share her talents with others.

Thank you for the fine article.

Kerrie Constance
Owner-Pretty Gifts & Things
786 Bridge Street
Vernonia

To The Editor:

I enjoyed your article on reasons to get rid of the electoral college, but I think our founding fathers did the right thing by allocating electors somewhat skewed to smaller population states. In our current world, if we were to use the popular vote only, elections would be decided by the most heavily populated cities and rural voters wouldn't need to bother to vote in close elections. In fact, you could just have NY, Boston, SF, Chicago and a few other cities vote. In 2000 or 2004, I found the red/blue divide map of the US by county especially interesting. Practically the whole country was red with a few blue pockets even though the popular vote was closer. This time, it was more evenly spread.

Tobie Finzel
Vernonia, Oregon

To The Editor:

A friend in Medford sent me this link: <http://planetashland.net/buyinashland.html> and after reading what Ashland is doing I began to think about what Vernonia has to offer and wonder why the residents don't keep their money local as much as possible. With the Holiday Season soon upon us I'd like to encourage my fellow Vernonians to spend their dollars where they will mean something. Instead of running off to Wal-Mart or some

other "big box" to buy the latest shiny doo-dad for a loved one this Christmas or Hanukkah, use your imagination and find that special someone a gift locally, right here in your own community. I personally guarantee you that you can find something for everyone on your list right here at home, without spending any extra on gas and all within walking distance.

Your neighbors and your friends own the businesses on Bridge Street.

These are businesses that are struggling to stay alive and that will go above and beyond to give you good customer service and they know your name when you walk in the door. Does the "greeter" at Wal-Mart know who you are? Do they know whom your kids? No, they don't and wake up! That's just Wal-Mart's way of trying to pose as what our local businesses truly are. Don't let Wal-Mart fool you into thinking that they care about you or your hard-earned money just because they have someone "greet" you when you come in the door. They're greeting your wallet, your pocketbook, and your hard-earned cash. Your neighbor really does care because they are sitting in the same boat.

Many are still trying to recover from last's year's disastrous flood and those who weren't flooded out are just trying to deal with the current economy. So please, please when you're making out your gift list this Holiday Season put another list next to it that lists the Vernonia businesses and what they offer and match them up. Don't forget the services and the gift certificates they will be glad to issue. How about a gift massage? A gift hair cut? Use your imagination and let's boost Vernonia's economy and help our neighbors and friends in the process. I promise that you'll feel better for having done that.

I can also promise that if you don't support your local businesses they will soon be gone. You won't need to wonder why.

Alice Foster Zimmerman
Vernonia, Oregon

To the Editor:

With the election completed, I want to take the opportunity to thank all of those people involved in my campaign. I cannot list everyone who supported me. You know who you are and Jill and I thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We are grateful for the hard work, calls and kind words of encouragement we received. I would like to also thank the citizens of Columbia County. I knocked on many doors throughout the County and was greeted with warm hospitality.

I do feel the need to clear up an issue that developed from Jenefer Grant's campaign in the week preceding the election. Most of the women in Columbia County received a flier from Jenefer Grant's campaign that referred to Shane Stephens and asking the readers to vote for Jenefer because she cared and I did not. Nothing could be farther from the truth. In fact, most of what was contained in the flier is not truthful. I did represent Mr. Stephens for approximately 6 weeks. I filed a modification case on Mr. Stephens' behalf because Mr. Stephens had particular allegations that Ms. Davis' significant other was physically abusing Shane Stephens. I did not know if Mr. Stephens had an extensive criminal record or a violent criminal background. Most importantly, I did care about what was happening with Shane Stephens.

The citizens of this County need to be aware that I was not the only attorney who ever represented Mr. Stephens. Jenefer Grant represented Mr. Stephens from approximately April 24, 2002 until January of 2003. This seems to call into question the appropriateness of Jenefer Grant issuing a restraining order against her former client, Rockland Stephens, in January of 2008. Jenefer's involvement, however, did not cease because she then issued a stalking order on behalf of her former client, Rockland Stephens, against Shannon Davis' significant other. It should be noted, also, that Jenefer's order still allowed Rockland Stephens one overnight visit, (he was allowed two overnights previously) the first and third weekends of each month, so her order would not have prevented this tragedy, and Judge Reed's subsequent order did not cause it. Court records show that neither the attorneys, Judges, law enforcement nor Shannon Davis ever alleged that Mr. Stephens would harm his son.

If I had known any harm would come to Shane I would have alerted authorities. For Jenefer to suggest that I was not concerned for the safety of a child is reprehensible conduct. I can appreciate Shannon Davis' grief; however, I cannot excuse the mischaracterization of my role in this tragic case.

Once again, thanks to all of you who supported me in my campaign.

David B. Herr
St. Helens, Oregon

HOW TO SEND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Vernonia's Voice welcomes and requests your thoughts, opinions, and ideas. Please include your name, address, and phone number; limit your letters to 300 words or less. Vernonia's Voice reserves the right to edit, omit, respond, or ask for a response to letters submitted. We will print letters, space permitting. Deadline is the 20th of the month. **Email to: news@vernoniasvoice.com or mail to: Letters, PO Box 55, Vernonia 97064.**



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