

Readers Lend Their Voices... *continued from page 4*

have three County Commissioners that are directly, legally, morally, and individually responsible for the current state of this county. They are Tony Hyde, Earl Fisher, and Henry Heimuller. I believe it is time We the People start holding these three people responsible and accountable for our failing Sheriff's Office. If they cannot come up with a solution to this problem then why are we allowing them to represent the citizens of this County? They are supposed to represent the best interest of the people!

If the County Commissioners and the Sheriff cannot come up with a resolution to keep our Sheriff's Office functioning to a satisfactory level of operations then at a minimum I feel that by October 1st, 2011 the Commissioners should have a County Ordinance in place that allows the citizens of this County the right to use deadly force in the defense and protection of personal property. The right to use deadly force to protect land, tangible, or moveable property. The right to use deadly force to prevent the imminent commission or Arson, Burglary, Robbery, Aggravated Robbery, Theft during the nighttime, or Criminal Mischief during the nighttime. The right to use deadly force to prevent the criminal that is fleeing immediately after committing the crimes listed above or when it is reasonably believed the property cannot be protected or recovered by any other means. Right now in this county there is no other means of recovering or protecting property because the CCSO is non-existent and does not have the staff to investigate property crimes to recover stolen property. I know this first hand. Now let's include the right to use deadly force in protection of a third person's property with these guidelines. The third person has requested the protection and/or the third person is a family member. These are the same laws that are and have been in effect in Texas for quite some time. Now is the time to change the use of deadly force laws in Columbia County. The billboards have just been put up by Sheriff Dickerson welcoming every criminal in the Pacific NW to Columbia County. Change the laws allowing us to defend our property and you can bet that the criminals and thieves will conduct their business somewhere else.

If this County does not have a properly functioning Sheriff's Office and the current use of force laws stay in effect, then in my opinion the "Lone Ranger" Deputy on patrol will be spending most of his or her time arresting citizens that will take the law into their own hands by misguided advice from Sheriff

Dickerson. The average citizen will then be the "More Violent" criminals the Sheriff's Office will have time to arrest and the bed space in our jail to house them.

The people of this County have all the power in their hands, not the Commissioners and not Sheriff Dickerson! They are elected by the people and for the people! As the City of Vernonia knows firsthand, if we don't like what our Commissioners and our Sheriff are doing for this county we can replace them. We have the power to make them properly fund the CCSO or change the use of force laws.

Properly fund the CCSO or provide new ordinances that allow the citizens to legally protect themselves and their property with the use of force including deadly force. Do so without criminal prosecution for the use of deadly force under our current laws! Then we will see how long the criminals and thieves work in Columbia County. If the Commissioners don't want to do either of these things and ignore the problem, then maybe a recall is in order.

It is time to make our elected officials do their jobs or we will replace all of you with someone that will! It can be done! All we have to do is stand together as a community and hold them accountable for their actions! It's not rocket science, its politics. There are 49,351 County Residents vs. 3 County Commissioners, and 1 Sheriff. I think the odds are slightly in our favor! 13 colonies took on the strongest nation in the world and won by the power of the people standing as one. Taking on three Commissioners and a Sheriff should be a cake walk if we stand together and demand funding, accountability, or change the use of force laws!

Michael Botchie
Rainier, OR

Editors Note: Columbia County Sheriff Jeff Dickerson sent the following statement to local media outlets to clarify certain statements attributed to him in regard to budget cuts and the need for protection in rural areas:

In an interview with a newspaper reporter, I was asked if people will be "unprotected" without enough deputies to patrol Columbia County. My response is that there are never enough deputies to "protect" citizens across the 657 square miles of our county, but that if we had more deputies, we might be able to better deter crime in those areas. I was asked how a person could deter crime in the absence of more patrols. My response was that people should invest in home security

items, make sure they know the serial numbers of the valuables and if someone was threatening their lives, a shotgun loaded with .00-buckshot is a good deterrent.

I also said that in the rural areas of Columbia County, guns are a way of life, and that most people know how to defend themselves from those who would threaten them.

Later, when asked for clarification, by a television reporter, I told him that I was in no way advocating citizens taking up guns and trying to enforce the law themselves. And that if a citizen was seeking to arm him or herself as a means of self-defense, that they should be trained in the proper use of the gun.

This is merely following the advice of state law when it comes to getting a concealed weapons permit. This is common sense, too.

I am a supporter of the 2nd amendment in the Bill of Rights, and believe that an armed citizenry is better-prepared to face those who threaten the life-safety of people than a disarmed one would be. As Sheriff, it is my duty both to enforce the law -- and to work with the law abiding citizens of our county to conserve the peace and ensure tranquil communities. Unfortunately, there are threats to that peace in this county, and our deputies cannot be everywhere at once. A citizen who wishes to be armed for protection is granted that right by our Constitution, unless his or her behavior has led to a forfeiture of that right.

No person--whether police officer or citizen--is justified in using deadly physical force unless the use of that force is justified by a reasonable belief that the use of that force is necessary to defend that person or another from what that person reasonably believes to be the infliction or threatened infliction of serious physical injury.

People who violate this standard can and will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law possible.

Sheriff's over the years have had detectives assigned to investigate crimes until 2009, when budget cuts were made to eliminate those positions. Now that we have gotten down so far in our sworn enforcement numbers, I have made a tactical decision to make one of our five deputies a detective, believing we will get better investigations by having that investigator and gain much more than we lose by keeping that deputy on the road. Even with 5 deputies, we still can't go to all the calls we get (25 per day). Triaging the most serious calls and following up with a detective is what makes the most sense to me with the resources we have. The sixth enforcement position this year (the seventh last year) is a dedicated narcotics investigator funded entirely by a grant for narcotics investigations.

In Memory of... *continued from page 14*

born July 11, 1926 in Mount Sterling, Kentucky, the daughter of Walter and Mary (Curtis) Frisby. She was raised and received her education in Kentucky. After graduation she moved to New Orleans, Louisiana, and then to Newport, Rhode Island. While in Newport, Rosemarie met Donald Biancone where he was serving in the U.S Navy.

Rosemarie was united in marriage to Donald A. Biancone on April 19, 1960 in Portsmouth, Virginia. Following their marriage they resided in Rhode Island, Virginia, Florida, California, Washington, Hawaii and Illinois. Donald retired from the Navy in 1976 and they settled in Portland, Oregon until 2001 when they moved to Vernonia, Oregon where they have resided since.

Rosemarie was a childcare provider for over 40 years.

She was a member of the Vernonia Foursquare Church.

Among her special interests she enjoyed Bingo, reading, fishing, and bowling. Her lifelong love and gift was caring for children.

Survivors include her loving husband Donald Biancone Sr.; her five children and their spouses, Angel Biancone of Fairview, Oregon; Alicia

and Gerald Kinney of Vernonia, Oregon; Donald and Gina Biancone Jr., of Vancouver, Washington; Amber and James McMurry of Portland, Oregon; April Biancone of Milwaukie, Oregon.

Also surviving are 25 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, remembrances can be made to Providence Saint Vincent Medical Foundation Heart Program.

Tualatin Valley Funeral Alternatives in Hillsboro is in charge of the arrangements.
(503)-693-7965



PHYLLIS "FYRNE" TAYLOR

Phyllis "Fyrne" Taylor, 97,



a former resident of the Vernonia community, late of Forest Grove, died Tuesday evening, September 20, 2011 at Marquis Care at Forest Grove, Oregon.

Private Burial Rites were held at the Mist Cemetery in Mist, Oregon. At her request, no services will be held.

PHYLLIS "FYRNE" TAYLOR was born February 20, 1914 in McCool Junction, Nebraska, the daughter of the late William Grover and Rebecca (Bailey) Grover. She was raised and received her education in Nebraska.

She was united in marriage to Ray Monroe Taylor on August 17, 1950 in Hillsboro, Oregon. Following their marriage they resided in the Natal community, until 1993 when they moved to Vernonia.

Fyrne was preceded in death by her husband, Ray, on November 2, 1994 in Hillsboro, Oregon, after celebrating over forty-four years of marriage together. She resided in the Vernonia community, until 2001, when she moved the Hillsboro community, where she was a guest resident at Rosewood Park Retirement community. In 2006, she moved to Marquis Care at Forest Grove, where she had been a guest resident since.

While living in the Natal and Vernonia community, Fyrne was a member of the Mist Helping Circle and

was an active member of the Vernonia Senior Center.

Among her special interests she enjoyed sewing, quilting, gardening and was an avid rockhound.

She was also preceded in death by her parents, William and Rebecca Grover, her two brothers, Ronald "Bud" Grover and Ross Grover and her sister Evelyn West.

Survivors include her two daughters, Doris and Robert Buchholz, of Vernonia, Oregon; and Dayle and Gunny Cox, of Vernonia, Oregon.

Also surviving are her four grandchildren and their spouses, Scott Buchholz and Amy Taylor, of Portland, Oregon; Jeremy and Sara Buchholz, of Portland, Oregon; Damien Cox, of Oregon; and Tandle and Mike Futter, of Beaverton, Oregon; her four great-grandchildren, Adrianna Fyrne Buchholz, Nora Helena Buchholz-Taylor, Keilyn Futter and Ezrie Futter and several nieces and nephews.

To sign the online guest book or to send a condolence to the family go to www.fuitenrosehoyt.com.

Fuiten, Rose & Hoyt Funeral Home in Vernonia is in charge of the arrangements. (503)-357-2161