

VERNONIA'S  
**voice**  
reflecting the spirit of our community

**Publisher and Managing Editor**  
**Scott Laird**  
503-367-0098  
scott@vernoniasvoice.com

**Contributors**

Dr. Ken Cox  
Jeff Dickerson  
Steven Leskin  
Stacey Lynn  
Gayle Rich-Boxman  
Ernie Smith  
Michal Smith  
Grant Williams

**Photography**

Gayle Rich-Boxman

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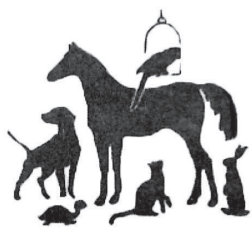
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**Vernonia's Voice, LLC**  
**PO Box 55**  
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**503-367-0098**



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# What Happens Now that the Levy Has Passed?

By Sheriff Jeff Dickerson

All the plans we were making to close the jail came to an immediate halt last month after the voters passed the \$7 million levy to keep our jail going for the next three years. Our effort and energy leading up to the vote had been devoted to getting everything in place for what would have been a very quick closure if the levy had been defeated.

Once the levy revenue is figured into the equation, we will begin in earnest to reverse direction. This will take some doing, initially, as the jail remains on life support due to low staffing. There is a long process that must be initiated

before we can begin hiring staff, but we have contingency plans in place to fill gaps until we can begin the hiring process.

We also have several vendor contracts that need to be renegotiated, as we had let them lapse pending the vote, continuing on a month-to-month basis. Now that we know we will be in business, we need to start afresh with new contracts for food, inmate telephones, and inmate



medical.

We need to upgrade our software for jail inspections and jail management, and it will be better to do that now, than while we are in the hiring process. The Board of Commissioners also will empanel the citizen review committee that the commissioners were talking about during the election campaign. I am hoping for a good cross-section of individuals to sit on the panel, and I also hope those who voted against the levy will be well-represented.

The fact is that this county is pretty much divided on using additional tax money to support the jail. We need to develop a long-term strategy to fund the jail, and we need to build consensus around a solution that will work for longer than three years. Let us work together to build consensus for a safer, more secure community for our future.

**June 2014 Lunch Time: 11:30AM-1:00PM**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9 <b>FIRST DAY!</b> Chicken Nuggets	10 Corn Dogs	11 Chef's Surprise	12 Hamburgers or Cheeseburgers	13 Pizza
16 Beef Nachos or Taco Salad	17 Hot Dogs	18 Chef's Surprise	19 Chicken Burgers	20 Pizza
23 Chicken Nuggets	24 Corn Dogs	25 Chef's Surprise	26 Hamburgers or Cheeseburgers	27 Pizza
30 Beef Nachos or Taco Salad	This menu is subject to change.			

**Happy Summer!**

The VSMP is Sponsored by Vernonia School District

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## Columbia County Passes Jail Funding

Columbia County citizens voted in favor of a tax levy to support funding their county jail.

In a close vote, Measure 5-238 won by just 296 votes or 1.26%. A total of 11,768 votes were cast.

In other local election news, County Commissioner Henry Heimuller and Wayne Mayo ended their race in a virtual deadlock, with Heimuller outpacing Mayo 5,341 votes to 5,278. There were 92 write in votes meaning neither Heimuller nor Mayo received the necessary 50% of the vote to secure election. A run off will take place in November.

In the two contested judges races, incumbent for Judge of the Circuit Court, Pos. 3 Jenefer Grant easily handled a write-in challenge by Agnus Petersen, winning almost 80% of the vote. In the race for Judge of the Circuit Court, Pos. 1, Jean Martwick received 37.67% of the vote while Cathleen Callahan received 36.39% of the vote. Jason Heym finished third with 24.72 of the vote. A run off will be held in November.

Vernonia High School  
Graduates of 2004

Please join us June 21st

**The Birk**

11139 Hwy 202  
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Private Patio will be open at 4 PM.  
Appetizers, dinner, drinks and a live band!  
*As always, please drink responsibly.*

**All In** Happy Hour Mon-Fri 4-7  
Lady's Night Wed 5-12

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**Events**

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Dixie Wrecked  
June 21  
Texas Hold 'em  
June 28  
Megan James & the Intolerables

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