

OPINION: It's time for a Madam Mayor in Vernonia

By Noni Andersen

Vernonia mayor candidates Cindy Ball and Mario Leonetti, are both City Councilors and both have demonstrated their commitment to the community.

Leonetti has lived and worked in Vernonia for more than 30 years, has served about 20



years as a volunteer firefighter and returned to the city council after taking some time off to recover from a heart attack several years ago. He and his wife, Nanette, own and operate Leonetti's Pizza & Grill.

Ball is a comparative newcomer, having moved to Vernonia with her husband, Dan, and two daughters a little over four years ago, but that hasn't kept her from being a contributing member of the community. She works full time and at-

tends PSU, but approaches community tasks with organization and skill. Currently working in Portland, she is seeking a position closer to home.

Leonetti and Ball share concerns about maintaining Vernonia's small town lifestyle while realizing that economic development is



needed, but the mayor's job should go to Ball for two reasons: One, Leonetti will still be on the council next year, so his valuable input won't be missing. Two, Ball's organizational skills will be very valuable in the mayoral position.

It would be a shame to lose either of these contributing members of our community. By electing Cindy Ball to the mayor's position, we will be able to draw community ideas from both of them.

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Members of Cub Scout Pack 201 and the Vernonia High School Youth Transition Program are reminding everyone that the annual Vernonia Cares Food Drive will start Oct. 21. Helping with the effort are, front from left, Kody Watts, Mason Roberts, Chris Johnston, Trisha Lee and Rachel Lee. Looking over the banner are John Collins, Dallas Armstrong, Tyler Clines and Gavin Roberts. For complete information on the food drive, please see page 8.

OPINION: Hyde is easy choice for BOC; Pulliam, Corsiglia harder choice

By Noni Andersen

Tony Hyde is an easy choice for re-election to Position #3 on the Columbia County Board of Commissioners. Aside from the fact that he is from Vernonia and we need whatever representation we can get, he has made great strides toward understanding the problems that face the county, and works hard to try and solve those problems.

Hyde has drawn criticism for time spent in Salem, Washington, D.C., and elsewhere, but that criticism is misplaced. When we are represented by someone who will work with politicians or bureaucrats in higher positions, we are better off. It is no accident that Columbia County receives a great deal of assistance from both state and federal agencies and Hyde can take credit for much of that assistance.

Shawna Sykes, who is no stranger to Vernonia, may well have a future in government, but not just yet. She is smart

and capable of learning what is needed.

Wayne Mayo, Hyde's other opponent, sounds a bit ambivalent about fiscal responsibility. He says "no" to more taxes, but advocates a \$1 per ton fee on gravel depletion as though that didn't come out of someone's pocket.

BOC Position #1 candidates Paul Pulliam and Joe Corsiglia are both capable of doing a good job, but which one is better? Pulliam has been involved in economic development on county and state commissions for a long time - some of his work has benefited Vernonia and he knows Vernonia well. Corsiglia also has ties to Vernonia, but hasn't been involved directly.

The third candidate, Scott Burge, isn't yet ready, but he will be in the future.

Pulliam's experience has the edge and he should do well with voters in the Nehalem Valley—his work on economic development has also helped the Mist-Birkenfeld area.

OPINION: Purvee and Parrow for Vernonia City Council seats

By Noni Andersen

Three candidates are seeking the two vacancies on the Vernonia City Council.

Probably the best known is Randy Parrow (whose father, Art, is completing his second term as mayor) because of his position as manager at Vernonia Sentry and his community activity, particularly with the Boosters and the Jamboree committee. Parrow and his wife, Sharon, who also works at Sentry and serves on the city Planning Com-



mission, are now enjoying their first grandchild.

Parrow said he is community oriented and, with no children left in school, wants to expand his civic involvement. He describes himself as a team player. He feels that the workshops offered by organizations such as the League of Oregon Cities have much to offer and he would like to participate. He has attended a number of council meetings.

Glen Purvee is probably the least known of the three candidates. A Vernonia resident for two-and-a-half years, he grew up in Maine and moved to Bandon about ten years ago. He and his wife, Christine, have children in school.

Purvee operates two businesses, G

& D Technology, which imports and exports circuit board components, and Vernonia Packaging & Shipping. Both businesses operate out of 998 Bridge Street, where he is also constructing a miniature golf course.

He has been attending City Council meetings regularly for much of the past year and decided he would like to get involved.

The third candidate, Chris Collins, has lived in Vernonia for a long time. We have no photo and didn't interview him because he missed our appoint-



ment.

At the candidates' fair held Oct. 10 in the Scout Cabin, Collins said he was running because he wanted to be "a thorn in the side of the mayor," and would represent citizens who are not currently represented.

With two candidates who have shown willingness to participate in the mundane aspects of meetings, and one who doesn't attend meetings and expresses disdain for a cooperative approach to problem solving, the choices are easy.

Voters should elect Randy Parrow and Glen Purvee to the Vernonia City Council.