

## Letters to the Editor

### Mayor-elect thanks people of Vernonia

To the Editor:

I want to take a moment to thank the people of Vernonia for their support in the recent election. It will be a privilege to serve as Mayor. One of my top priorities is to continue to try and improve the delivery of services to our citizens. Customer service is really the City's primary business. Although we do a pretty fair job already, I think we will have room for improvement.

I think, for the most part, I am very pleased with the direction the City is moving and I hope to work with my fellow councilors and City staff and the community to continue to make Vernonia a better community to live in. We still have much work ahead of us. Together, we will make a difference.

Mario P. Leonetti  
Vernonia

### Ball offers thanks and congratulations

To the Editor,

First, I would like to offer my congratulations to Mario Leonetti for his success in the mayoral race. I know he is working for the best interests of Vernonia.

I would like to thank those citizens of Vernonia who voted for me for their "Vote of Confidence." The last three years have been invaluable to me; great fun (mostly) and an enormous learning experience (definitely).

My commitment to the community has not ended. I am continuing to work on the projects that I started during my term on City Council. I will be looking for other citizens to participate in all of them.

Being involved with City

Government has helped me understand several important things:

- City officials work within a highly structured environment that makes decision-making very complex.

- Some of the problems that seem simple have many solutions.

- Many solutions are right, the trick is choosing the BEST right solution.

- Working with a committee can be difficult, but is very rewarding when good decisions are made.

I encourage each of you to attend the occasional city council meeting. Come share your opinions, meet the councilors and learn how you can become a part of the dynamic system that is city government. After all, it is all our community.

Sincerely,  
Cindy Ball

### Judge professional in actions to writer

To the Editor:

In the November 15 issue of *The Independent* (Vernonia Council decides to monitor court for now), it states "Council members and many community members have expressed dissatisfaction with Justice of the Peace Rod McLean, who was unopposed for re-election to a second term."

This seems a strange way to show opposition, in my opinion.

It also states the council is concerned that McLean makes inadequate drug and alcohol referrals to Columbia Community Mental Health (CCMH). I ashamedly will say I am presently involved with a DUUI and at no time was any reference to CCMH made or reference thereof "improper". I was informed that any issues with CCMH be handled by CCMH

supervisors and staff. I was issued an evaluator, Mr. Duane Sentgeorge, and he, alone, referred me to CCMH. I was also handed a business card of Donna Tewksbury for any and all comments or complaints regarding CCMH and its program. I was advised any reference to or issues not be reported to the court system, but solely to CCMH.

I truly feel, in my case, the most professional and courteous manner has been presented, and any and all advice unbiased. Mr. McLean follows guidelines and recommendations of the evaluator and counselors and should not be blamed or used as a scapegoat by anyone.

I would also like to say the transfer of the "well-liked counselor" is a community loss, for his knowledge of programs and drug and alcohol issues clearly exceeded program requirements. His transfer is an extreme loss and should be reconsidered and amended.

With deep apology to community members for my bad judgement in my offense.

Mrs. Cynthia Shirley  
Vernonia

### Scouts appreciate generous donation

To the Editor:

Boy Scout Troop 201, would like to thank Randy Parrow and Vernonia Sentry for their generous donation of cans and bottles during our fundraiser. It was very much appreciated.

J. Howley for  
Boy Scout Troop 201

### Annual CARES food drive was wonderful

To the Editor:

Wow, another food drive is here and gone. Our efforts have paid off again, and the

wonderful generosity of our community has brought in food items this year totaling 5239 pounds and still counting. We had a large number of helpers making the 2000 food drive another successful year. Cash donations totalled \$3,665.00. This cash will purchase everything necessary to make Christmas dinners for our needy and homeless families. \$1,600 was use to purchase 100 turkeys. We were so excited to have the burden lifted! Not only a financial gift was given in the turkey drive, but the precious time of our own Ruth Burkett, who canvassed for our Christmas dinners.

Thanks to Ruth Burkett and West Wind Arts, Metro West Ambulance; Fuiten, Rose & Hoyt Funeral Home; Dr. and Mrs. Thiringer, NAPA Auto Parts, Vernonia Sentry Market, Gwin Logging, Shaw Supply, Vernonia Realty, Pihl Logging and West Oregon Electric for their cash donations to purchase turkeys.

To those who helped with the food drive putting out flyers, picking up (in the pouring rain), sorting and boxing, making phone calls, organizing their groups and anything else that was done to help, we thank you, sincerely!

Suzie Armstrong, for taking on a huge responsibility, joined by Cub Scout Pack 201, Boy Scout Troop 201, Girl Scout Troop 559, Carolyn Keasey, Master Tesdal and his Tae Kwon Do group, Youth Transition Program at VHS (Beth Kintz and Mrs. Dickenson, Brian Collins, Raechel and Trisha Lee, Jere Haverland) L.E.A.P. (Heidi Herb and hard working group of kids), Deanna Brown, Derek and Ruby McClure, Judy Gwin, Angie Taylor and kids, Lee's U-Catch, Joe Gray, J.D. Dupois, Joann Beamish, Debbie Benedict, Wendy Fife, Vernonia Community Church, Vernonia Christian Church, Bill Horn, Anita Pearson and kids, Tracy Fletcher, Peter O'Leary, Ina Bateman, Bill and Dorothy Howard, Mike and Elin Hayes, Darla Mudd, Arnold and Mary Tolonen, Kevin and Colleen Gritman, Knotty Bear Tree Farm (Randall Holce), Holce Logging, Ray Pelster, St. Vincent De Paul, Sentry, Randy and Sharon Parrow, Lumbermans, Ralph and Barbara Sturdevant, Bill Fisher, Vernonia Senior Center, Vernonia School District - all staff and youth helpers, Mini Mart, Bill and Faye Sword, Joyce Erickson, American Legion, Mike and Carolyn Cook, Seventh Day Adventist Church, Troy and Lauri Jerman, WMH Vealey, William Ostrander, Carmencita Vigil, Reuben Phelps, Vicky Crowston, Rebecca Brookins, St. Vincent De Paul, Ray Pelster, Leonetti's Pizza & Grill, Oregon Cold Storage, Fort James Wauna Mill, the devoted volunteers of Vernonia Cares - Sandy Deweber, Alan Deweber, Jack Ramsey, Debbie Vanzant, Lesley, Vice President Bill Yeo, Secretary Kelley Murphy-Shaw, Treasurer Linda

Naeve and President Joel Stith.

We are sure there are many others who have helped Vernonia Cares and we would like to thank you, too. Please know that if your name is not mentioned, we apologize. We truly appreciate what you have done for us.

There have been many challenges in the past months, but we know the effort is needed and we are grateful to have help from such a supportive community, year after year. Happy and Blessed Holidays to all.

Lisa Edgar, Director  
Vernonia Cares Food Bank

### Volunteers thanked by Fair Board, staff

To the Editor:

The Columbia County Fair Board and Staff would like to thank everyone for their donations and volunteered time to make the fairgrounds a family enjoyment year round. Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Year.

Mark Kuhn,  
Doug Bradley  
David Thompson, Jr.  
Jim Davis, Darin Smith  
Evelyn Hudson, Tony Bolton

### Hyde pledges to live up to responsibilities

To the Citizens of Columbia County:

I am, indeed, as humble as I am proud, of your decision to re-elect me as one of your commissioners. I recognize clearly the gravity of the responsibility that you have placed upon me and I assure you that I shall never give short weight to those responsibilities.

To those who have worked so hard to make this occasion a success, I extend my thanks. Your kindness and the warmth of your friendship will not be forgotten. It is great to know you and to work with you.

Again, thank you.

Tony Hyde  
Vernonia

### Parrow offers thanks, promises hard work

To the Community:

First, I would like to thank my father and mother, Art & Enid Parrow, for all they have done for me. I couldn't possibly name everything they have done to make me the individual I am today. I would also like to thank them for making the Parrow name a well-respected name in our community. Mom and Dad, THANK YOU!

Second, I would like to thank all of the individuals who voted for me in this election. I will work hard on your behalf to make the right decisions for our community and to keep Vernonia's progress advancing into the future.

Randy Parrow  
Councilperson-elect  
City of Vernonia

## Ike Says . . .

From page 2

after elk on Thanksgiving day. It had finally rained, and fresh tracks began to materialize. My job was chief scout and tracker, which meant sending Mike on fresh tracks, while I looked for more tracks or observed the progress of his hunt with radio communications. Sometimes I would track elk while Mike followed behind me looking ahead. My concentration was on the ground immediately before me. A frustrating aspect for me during this hunt, was that I was always bumping into elk while scouting for new sign and Mike was having tough luck following fresh tracks on his own. Neither one of us saw a legal bull, but we did have some exciting moments when we bounced some herds with spikes in them.

The down side to this year's elk season was some of the hunters. There seemed to be a general attitude of indifference to other hunters and their hunts. The term for this is corking. Corking is a logging term that stems from one logger stepping on another logger's boots. Since caulked ("corked" in logger slang) boots have small spikes on the bottom, this is not a desirable behavior. Corking during elk hunting means essentially the same thing...crowding into someone else's hunt with the hopes of using their movements to chase elk in to you. This is a tactic used by low life hunters and those with poor hunting skills. Sometimes corking happens accidentally, when two hunting parties are not aware

of each other's presence. Unfortunately, there are groups of hunters who are regularly involved in this sort of activity. There is one group, in particular, in the Mist area, that has taken this activity to a new high (or low), using a radio scanner to home in on hunters in pursuit of elk. They are also using intimidation to try and displace other hunters from what they feel is "their" hunting area. Numerous hunters have complained of near-miss incidents from the speeding vehicles of this group and one has stated that next time he will not swerve out of the way of the multi-vehicle caravans of fast moving vehicles. Other hunters are talking about illegal acts to slow down this gang.

While some of these ideas may sound interesting, we do not want to lower ourselves to this level and risk criminal prosecution. Hunters in this area are going to have to let this group know that this behavior will no longer be tolerated. This group causes a risk to our hunting heritage and they need to know that. Timberland owners, while not regulating this type of activity, will be quick to close their land to access if armed conflicts start to occur, so wise up, guys, before someone gets hurt or we loose our hunting area.

