

Letters

From page 24

of luck – there will be no response when you call 911, because the Sheriff's Office is closed until 10:00 the following morning. I have to believe there is a better solution than to simply close for 12 hours. Jeff Dickerson's suggestion of staggering shifts is an example of innovative leadership, something that could well keep the criminals off guard.

Columbia County deputies have not had performance evaluations in years. This does not cost money, but is simply a matter of an organization being run in a professional manner. What about training? No training for Columbia County deputies – something to think about when you're involved in a traffic accident (only between 10 a.m. and 10 p.m.) with the

responder not having had even basic first aid training. Jeff Dickerson has a plan to remedy both of these circumstances.

Undersheriff Simmons stands on his "27 years experience" – I only have 20, and I know that what is currently happening at Columbia County Sheriff's Office isn't right. I'm voting for Jeff Dickerson for Columbia County Sheriff – Time for change!

Sincerely,

**Gail Christensen
St. Helens**

Crain's experience is best for local Sheriff

To The Editor:

This letter is in support of Robert Crain for the position of sheriff. Three candidates are running and as far as I can see

all are well qualified and any of the three would make a good sheriff.

Having said this, of the three we like Robert Crain best for the following reasons:

First, he has many years of experience in law enforcement and knows a lot about different kinds of bad guys and how to catch them, including working with the federal task force on financial crimes, identity theft and that sort of thing. Second, he believes in the need for a good community friendly approach to public safety so that we might better get to know the sheriff's deputies protecting our neighborhoods. Third, he has good ideas on how we might fund reasonable 24/7 patrols in our county. And finally, and not least, he's proven himself a good administrator at the coun-

ty and a nice guy.

Yours truly,

**Mike & Maddy Sheehan
Scappoose**

Dickerson's ability to innovate is needed

To The Editor:

"Command presence" is a primary attribute to look for in a law enforcement leader such as a Sheriff. Mr. Jeff Dickerson, candidate for Sheriff of Columbia County, embodies it, while Undersheriff Gerry Simmons leaves us wanting. I had the opportunity to see each speak at the Candidates Forum in Rainier on April 17th. Dickerson has charisma, a unique asset for a Sheriff to possess among his rank and file or when communicating a message before a board of county

Commissioners. The Sheriff's position is a public relations and law enforcement job. Effective communication of "the message" is crucial to educating the public on the issues and goals the next time voters are asked to approve a levy.

Mr. Simmons was the first candidate for Sheriff to speak. It wasn't until the very last item on his agenda that he made mention – almost in passing – of the patrol shortage with nary an explanation of how to fix it. I was astonished that a veteran of the department would relegate the "elephant in the room" to the stature of a "mouse."

In contrast, within a few minutes of his opener, Dickerson addressed the challenges of funding that so haunt the Sher-

Please see page 26

Obituary

RICHARD POWELL DAVIDSON



Richard "Dick" Powell Davidson, 57, Vernonia, died April 10, 2008. A celebration of life was held April 19 at the Forest Grove Senior Center.

Mr. Davidson was born October 24, 1950, in Portland, to Leonard and Donna Davidson. He was raised in Hillsboro and graduated from Hillsboro High School in 1968.

In 1969, he married Karen Lou Allstot. The first few years, they made their home in San Manuel, Arizona, before moving to Hillsboro. After they divorced in 1981, he moved to Forest Grove. He moved to Vernonia in 1991 after the death of his longtime companion, JoAnn Anzaldi. He was a welder for Freightliner Trucking, for over 32 years, before retiring in 2005.

He was also preceded in death by his parents.

Survivors include his three children, Tina Gardner of Hillsboro, Tonya Hesselgesser of Portland, and Michael of Forest Grove; and six grandchildren.

Remembrances are suggested to the American Heart Association, 710 2nd Ave., Suite 900, Seattle, WA 98104.

Duyck & VanDeHey Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

RICHARD JAMES HAVERLAND

Richard James "Jim" Haverland, 69, Vernonia, died April 17, 2008. A celebration of life was held April 26 at the Fuiten, Rose & Hoyt Funeral Home in Vernonia.

Mr. Haverland was born May 26, 1938, in Vernonia, to Willard and Leona Haverland. He was raised in Vernonia and graduated from Vernonia High School in 1956. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean conflict.

In 1979, he married Joyce J. Breazile. They made their home in Vernonia. He worked as a green chain operator at the Olympic Mill for 12 years and later at Banks Lumber Co. for 11 years until he retired.

He was preceded in death by three brothers, Everett, Willard "Jug", and George.

Survivors include his wife; six children, Tony "Lewis" of Garden City, Kansas, Dana Ryans and David Haverland, both of Harriman, Tennessee, James "Jay" of Salem, Anne Thompson of Portland, and Robert of Vernonia; a sister, Velma Smith of Bolen, New Mexico; 18 grandchildren; one great-granddaughter; nieces and nephews.

Fuiten, Rose & Hoyt Funeral Home in Vernonia was in charge of arrangements.

CECIL M. JOHNSON

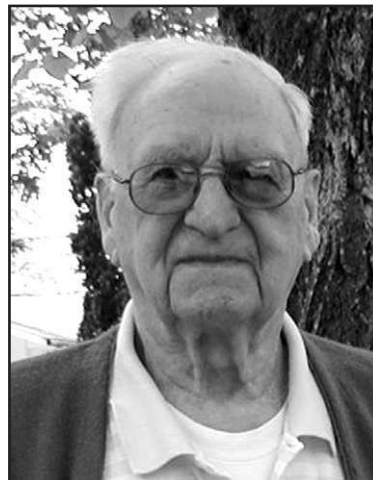
Cecil M. Johnson, 101, Vancouver, Washington, died April 22, 2008. No service will be held.

Mr. Johnson was born February 28, 1907, in Cornelius, to Elwood and Mary Johnson. He graduated from Hillsboro High School.

In 1929, he married Melba A. Lair. They made their home in Hillsboro before moving to Vernonia in 1941. In 1962, they moved to Tillamook and later to Vancouver, Wash. He was a store manager for Miller Mercantile.

He was preceded in death by his wife.

Survivors include his daughter, Dolores New in Vancouver, Wash.; a granddaughter; and a great-grand-



Cecil M. Johnson

daughter.

Remembrances are suggested to The Oregon Humane Society, P.O. Box 11364, Portland OR 97211.

Sunnyside Little Chapel of the Chimes was in charge of arrangements.

ELSIE MAE LEWIS

Elsie Mae Lewis, 80, Portland, died April 14, 2008. A funeral was held April 22, in the House of Prayer in Portland.

Mrs. Lewis was born June 6, 1927,

in Atlanta, Texas. Her maiden name was James. She was a teacher, homemaker, and seamstress who lived in Vanport, Vernonia and Portland.

In 1945, she married Governor Richard Lewis.

She was preceded in death by her husband.

Survivors include four sons, Richard C., Michael E., Governor Edmund, and Anthony B.; two daughters, Linda M. Lewis-Scott and Donna M. Lewis; four sisters, Maxine Nance, Evelyn Peters, Mildred Allen, and Jean Booth; five grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Remembrances to House of Prayer, 731 N. Mason St., Portland.

Caldwell's Hennessey, Goetsch & McGee was in charge of arrangements.

MICHAEL PATRICK MULLINS

Michael Patrick Mullins, 65, Newberg, died April 22, 2008. Services are pending at this time.

Mr. Mullins was born May 1, 1942, in Vernonia, to Larry and Mabel (Childs) Mullins. He was raised in Vernonia, and graduated from Vernonia High School in 1960. He earned a B.A.

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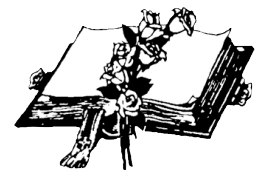
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a condolence to the family, go to:
www.fuitenrosehoyt.com