

U.S. Senator Merkley holds Town Hall in Scappoose, fields questions on many issues

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source of knowledge," which was not a good situation.

State Senator Betsy Johnson, who was also at the Town Hall, said that the ultimate regulation of term limits lies with the voters. "If the electorate is tired of their representative, they can vote him out of office."

Merkley was asked what he would do if President "Obama does an end run around the constitution and signs a treaty with Mexico" requiring American gun owners to be licensed.

After explaining that all treaties require congressional approval, Merkley said he would not vote for licenses for gun ownership.

On Social Security and Medicare, one attendee said that, according to an article in the *Sunday Oregonian*, the Obama administration is going to "freeze Social Security for two years, increase Medicare Part B from \$98 to \$116 and increase prescriptions by 26%." He then asked "How can they say there is no inflation?" Merkley said he had not had

time to read that day's newspaper so he couldn't comment on it, but that "our seniors pay the highest prescription rates in the world."

A follow-up by another person recounted that part of the Medicare prescription bill

passed during the Bush administration prohibits Medicare from bargaining for lower rates, and asked if that element of Medicare could be changed without a larger health care bill? "Yes, it could," Merkley said, "but it's not likely."

Another questioner asked if the Social Security notch bill will go through the Senate this year. "I don't know," Merkley said.

Noting that the Federal Reserve is private, not a government agency, Merkley said, "See Merkley page 21"

Letters

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came on board to tackle. Vote for Jim Krahn for Vernonia School Board and confirm that his dedication and hard work are recognized and appreciated.

Dr. Phyllis Gilmore
Vernonia

You can help pick Yard of the Month

To the Editor:

Just a friendly reminder that Vernonia Pride will be picking their Yard of the Month starting May 15, 2009.

Decorated ballot boxes are in place at City Hall (entrance hall table) and Sentry Market (on top of the safe) for you to deposit your yard nomination ballot. (Ballots are in place beside each box)

Please help pick the winners by getting your nominations in the ballot box before the 14th of each month.

Be sure to watch for winner's name to be printed in the paper.

Janelle Thomas
Cedergreen
Vernonia Pride

Not a good time to replace Jim Krahn

To the Editor:

I am always so glad when new faces step up with conviction to serve our community. It is often unseen and unappreciated. So when we had two wonderful young mothers throw their hat in the ring to serve on the school board, I thought bravo!

Unfortunately, I do not think that this is the time to change "horses". Jim Krahn has the connections at the state level that we need to see this project through. His dedication is such that even after having major surgery last year he did not miss any meetings but attended them via phone when needed. That is the type of dedication we need to see our new schools built. I do sincerely

hope that both young ladies continue to participate and be invested in the process but my vote is for Jim Krahn for school board.

Heather Lewis
Vernonia

Donation process to V. Cares is clarified

To the Editor:

Dear Supporters; the Board and Staff of Vernonia Cares Food Bank (VCFB) would like to clarify how your donations are handled. Checks and cash received are issued a pre-printed, numbered receipt. This document indicates VCFB's nonprofit EIN number along with the donor information. This EIN number proves that we are a nonprofit, and you may deduct your donation on your taxes. We would recommend that cash be brought to our location during our regular business hours (Tuesday and Thursday between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.). This way your cash donation can be processed properly and given a receipt right away. The food bank is located within the Legion Building (627 Adams Avenue, Vernonia).

Checks may be delivered in the same way, or they can be mailed to Vernonia Cares, PO Box 126, Vernonia, OR 97064-0126. No VCFB staff or representatives directly solicit funds. (Over the holidays, we did ask Vernonia businesses for turkey donations, and some gave cash towards that project.) If you are in doubt regarding any person seeking a donation on Cares' behalf, please contact VCFB executive director Sandy Welch at the food bank (503-429-1414) or Barb Ervin (503-429-1625).

We work hard to be a service agency in which you can place your trust. We want you to be confident your donations are handled responsibly. Thank you for your generous support.

We are currently providing emergency groceries to over 400 people per month. Thank you for allowing us to be your hands extended to the hungry in and around Vernonia.

Rosie McCoy,
Vice President
VCFB Board of Directors
Sandy Welch,
Executive Director

Promote Broadband for rural areas

To the Editor:

Tired of slow and dreadful dial-up speeds or the unpredictability and expense of satellite internet service? We may have an opportunity to change that and the time to act is now.

The Northwest Oregon Broadband Taskforce was formed to apply for stimulus funding through the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program to expand high-speed internet services to "underserved" rural residential and business communities throughout Columbia, Clatsop and Tillamook Counties. The result could be a huge economic boon by stimulating growth in existing businesses, spurring on new businesses and growing jobs throughout the region.

Public and private partnerships have joined to expand the effort. Schools, hospitals and emergency service providers are all encouraged to participate.

Simply go to the web site listed below and register your residential or business location to the data base; this will inform the task force of your interest. The more interest, the better!

This may be the only opportunity we have to make it a reality!

Show your interest at: www.ipns.com/broadband

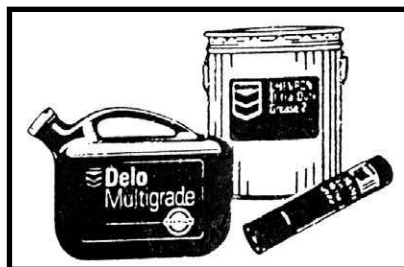
For further information contact Donna Nyberg at 503-320-2050

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