

Letters

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 seen is some random petty activity. Not even criminal...you know...the usual stuff...the stuff that kids do (and some adults) when they have nothing else to occupy their time. The VPD busted a couple of guys with illegal narcotics. With a little catastrophizing, the VPD makes it appear as though the Mexican drug cartels have moved into town and are running a secret underground drug

ring.
 They make it sound as though we don't know what's going on in our community. This strikes me as rather condescending and insulting. The guys they busted are the same guys who have caused many of the problems in this community for years. However, this still doesn't justify a fifth cop. Problems of this nature are few and far between. I've lived here for nearly twenty years and I've

never had a problem that I couldn't personally resolve.
 Well okay...they did say they wanted to place a fifth officer at the school and have them there during school hours. Why? What would this individual do the rest of the time? What would they do when school is out for the summer? If they feel the need to have someone stationed at the school during school hours wouldn't it make more sense to hire a security

guard? I'm sure there's someone in Vernonia with a security guard background that needs a job. Wouldn't it be better to employ someone from our community instead of an outsider? Don't we already have enough outsiders running our town, policing us, and telling us how our money will be spent?
 The police budget report included the fact that a couple of the officers live out of town, so the immediate response they

once had to an emergency situation no longer exists. This seems rather odd. How can one protect a community from 30 miles away? If they're being paid to protect our community shouldn't they be living in our community? My understanding is they're even driving the city vehicles home. Who's paying for the fuel? The wear and tear on the vehicles? Insurance?
 I'm sure some folks reading
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