

Where to Find Them

U.S. Senator Ron Wyden (Dem)
 1220 SW 3rd Avenue, Suite 585
 Portland OR 97232
 Phone: 503-326-7525
 223 Dirksen Senate Ofc. Bldg.
 Washington, D.C. 20510-0001
 Phone: 202-224-5244
 E-Mail: <http://wyden.senate.gov/contact>
 Website: <http://wyden.senate.gov>

U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley (Dem.)
 One World Trade Center
 121 SW Salmon St., Suite 1250
 Portland, OR 97204
 Phone: 503-326-3386
 107 Russell Senate Ofc. Bldg.
 Washington, DC 20510
 Phone: (202) 224-3753
 E-Mail: <http://merkley.senate.gov/contact>
 WebSite: <http://merkley.senate.gov>

U.S. Representative David Wu (Dem) OR District 1
 620 SW Main, Suite 606
 Portland, OR 97205
 Phone: 503-326-2901
 2338 Rayburn House Ofc. Bldg.
 Washington, DC 20515
 Phone: 202-225-0855
 Website: <http://house.gov/wu>

Senator Betsy Johnson (Dem) Senate District 16
 PO Box R,
 Scappoose, OR 97056
 Phone: 503-543-4046
 900 Court St. NE, S-314
 Salem, OR 97301
 Phone: 503-986-1716
 E-mail: sen.betsyjohnson@state.or.us
 Website: <http://www.leg.state.or.us/johnson>

Representative Brad Witt (Dem) House District. 31
 21740 Lindberg Road,
 Clatskanie, OR 97016
 Phone: 503-728-4664
 900 Court St. NE, H-373
 Salem, OR 97301
 Phone: 503-986-1431
 E-mail: rep.bradwitt@state.or.us
 Website: <http://www.leg.state.or.us/witt>

Representative Deborah Boone (Dem) House District 32
 PO Box 926
 Cannon Beach, OR 97110
 Phone: 503-717-9182
 900 Court St. NE, H-375
 Salem, OR 97301
 Phone: 503-986-1432
 E-mail: rep.deborahboone@state.or.us
 Website: <http://www.leg.state.or.us/boone>

Letters

Volunteers thanked for Christmas Dinner

To the Editor:
 Christmas Dinner '09 by the Friends of Vernonia, was put on by Val Mack, Jeri Cropp, Connie King, Gene Cropp, Sasha Mack, Susan Gore, Rick Cropp, and Suzanne Hagren. Other volunteers were the Potters, Pauline Koffman, Tori Fal-lau and Jen Evers.

A big Thank You to all of these people who worked so hard to make this a success.

Also, thanks to the Senior Center president and board for allowing us to use the Senior Center and facilities at no charge. We served approximately 125 people.

Sincerely,
Bill James
 Friends of Vernonia

A different view of climate change

To the Editor:
 I am prefacing my remarks by saying, "I consider myself a conservative with Libertarian leanings and choose candidates for a variety of reasons, fiscal responsibility for our country is a large part of my concern."

My writing is in regard to your December 17, 2009, issue in response to a Gentleman from Ohio, "Chicken Little", writing in reference to "Climate

Change". It seems he is blaming our environmental woes on the Republican Party. He may not be aware that the E.P.A. was founded in 1970. I wonder if the President of that day could have divined how this "New Act" would be warped into a profit-making venture (Al Gore, and many others come to mind). Mr. Nixon thought he did a good thing...but, then again...!

Mr. Little makes no mention of clean nuclear power or exploring our own natural resources and mentions only wind and solar. The particulate poisons the writer suggests are killing tens of thousands annually are not just from coal but also ships, trains, trucks, autos, heavy equipment, dust storms, wild fires, pollen, etc. As "Mr. Little" states his concerns my question is, "Would then the Government tax each state aside from cow flatulent also volcanoes and forest fires, etc."

Then there is the realization that we have no control over other countries such as industrializing India and China unless (they recently demanded) we pay them to comply. Bribery? We're already outsourcing projects, labor, materials... Borrowing and Paying Interest... More?

There is hardly any more mention of the Ethanol or Biodiesel or of the \$85 million "stimulus" funds (our tax dol-

lars) that were awarded to a start-up Solar Panel Plant that is now outsourcing jobs to other countries. I'd venture a guess that "Mr. Little" does not have a windmill in his front yard or solar panels on his roof as I try to conjure up trains, cruise ships, tankers, etc. laden with solar or windmills.

I believe the climate is changing, mostly due to the natural progression of life, nature. In the 1970's our concern for our planet was cooling which again has little to do with man. The Cap and Trade is a method to generate new taxes and a great source of revenue for lining the pockets of those "in the know and on the inside track". If one would check Mr. Gore's financial interests it's apparent he is a great example. He is the speaker for exploitation in the Green Movement. Cap and trade is not the answer to Global Warming.

Taxes rarely go down and the revenue garnered from them often gets dispersed to governmental departments they were never intended for. A new money pool.

We the people do need to do our part, stay informed, donate used goods, recycle, reduce energy consumption, manage driving routes, take care of waste by composting for better land use, gardening, etc. in hopes to downsize landfill and ocean fill. We the people need

to be and stay aware.
 "No Virginia", the sky is not falling.

Respectfully,
John "Jack" Jordan
 Snohomish, Washington

Meyer, Keasey are thanked for service

To the Editor:
 On behalf of the Vernonia Memorial Cemetery Beautification Committee and the Citizens of Vernonia, we would like to publically thank members Ellen Meyer and Ralph Keasey for their years of service given to the cemetery. The committee had reached many of their goals through the years with their direction and faithful service.

Best Regards,
Synda Allen
Cindy Ball
Jeff Hoyt
Sunny Huntman
Carolyn Velasco
 (Members of the Cemetery Beautification Committee)

Policy on Letters

The INDEPENDENT will not publish letters with personal attacks on private citizens. Preference will be given to brief letters, 300 words or less.

All letters must be signed and include a verifiable address or phone number.

Vernonia 2009 Year in Review

- Jan. 1 – Series of storms bring possibility of flooding. Emergency Command Center opened. River rises to 10 feet, no flooding. Councilors sworn in at emergency meeting.
- Jan. 5 – Kevin Hudson replaces Steve Whiteman on Vernonia City Council. Newest Vernonia Police Officer, Sean Carnahan sworn in.
- Jan. 6 – A storm expected to dump 10 inches of rain starts. Emergency Command Center opened.
- Jan. 7 – Emergency meeting at schools regarding flooding potential.
- Jan. 8 – Storm stalled over Washington, Nehalem River rises to 11 feet, only low-lying flooding occurs.
- Jan. 9 – ODOT and Pihl Excavation clear log jam at Rock Creek Bridge.
- Jan. 20 – City Council approved Ordinance 855 regarding "Dangerous Buildings."
- Jan. 28 – Columbia County Board of Commissioners tentatively approved zone change at Vernonia

- Airport.
- Feb. 3 – City of Vernonia served with lawsuit filed by Vernonian Dawn Thompson regarding sewer line under her house.
- Feb. 17 – City Council approves new water rate for multi-unit dwelling on single meter.
- Mar. 2 – School town hall on school sites held.
- Mar. 12 – School Board hears that O-A Hill "boot site" most likely site for new schools.
- Apr. 18 – Old City Hall annex removed, opening up Vernonia Community Learning Center court yard to Bridge St.
- May 16 – Make Vernonia Shine Day.
- May 18 – Washington Grade School's new mascot, the timberwolf, announced.
- May 24 – U.S. Senator Ron Wyden holds town hall meeting.
- June 15 – Council hires Interim City Administrator Jim Johnson as consultant through Dec. 31.