

## Where to Find Them

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 Washington, D.C. 20510-0001  
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 E-Mail: <http://wyden.senate.gov/contact>  
 Website: <http://wyden.senate.gov>

**U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley (Dem.)**  
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**U.S. Representative David Wu (Dem) OR District 1**  
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**Senator Betsy Johnson (Dem) Senate District 16**  
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**Representative Brad Witt (Dem) House District. 31**  
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**Representative Deborah Boone (Dem) House District 32**  
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 900 Court St. NE, H-375  
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## Letters

### Appreciated article on candidates' views

To the Editor:

I'd like to say "Thank You" for the article "Meet the candidates seeking to be the next Mayor of Vernonia". The questions were great and I got a real feel for the candidates. Since I will miss part or all of the upcoming candidates Q & A at the Scout Cabin on Oct. 5th, this article was a great help to me.

I am looking forward to *The Independent's* interviews with the candidates running for City Council, in your up-coming issue.

Sincerely,

**Randal Harvey  
 Vernonia**

### Heimuller is the best choice for our county

To the Editor:

I hope you will join me in voting for Henry Heimuller for County Commissioner Position 2. Henry is one of those people who, when faced with a problem, will work with others to figure out what the best solution is, and then make it happen.

Henry is a lifelong Columbia County resident with a clear understanding of what our community needs to grow and prosper. He's been employed in both the public and private sec-

tors, and owns his own small business, so he has a broad background to draw from. He has served on many boards and committees in our community, so he knows firsthand the challenges we face.

Our county needs Henry's people skills, his common sense, and his commitment to making this a great place to live and work.

Please join me in voting for Henry Heimuller for Columbia County Commissioner Position 2.

**Libby Calnon  
 Columbia City**

### Tournament pitcher needs help with costs

To the Editor:

Hello, my name is Payton Wolf and I am 11-years-old and in the 6th grade. I live here in Vernonia with my family, as well as many relatives, and I love it here! I participate in many activities and sports, but my life is for Softball! I have played since I was 5-years-old in T-Ball and have continued playing throughout the years. Two years ago I decided to try out pitching and even took some private lessons. I've continued to improve over time and as a result of all my hard work and dedication, I tried out and made an "A" level tournament team in

Aloha. Although I was very happy to have made the team, it costs a lot of money to participate and travel with this team. I am participating in a lot of fundraisers to help earn my tournament fees, etc. but it will take a lot to earn my total. A few of my fundraisers will be selling Pizza Hut gift cards, charter bus tickets for a day at Spirit Mountain Casino, promotions for Pizza Schmizza, Baja Fresh and Burgerville (they will donate anywhere from 10-30% of their earnings during a certain time period in exchange for our advertisement of their business).

In addition to these fundraisers, I am also collecting cans/bottles or any other donation you would like to give. If you would like to help me out in any way, please call me or my parents, Steve and Amanda Wolf, at 503-429-0457. Thanks so much.

**Payton Wolf  
 Vernonia**

### Trashing Chief Grace is a two-edged sword

To the Editor:

An Opinion: Scotty Caught in his own Revolving Door.

OMG! Scotty Laird really trashed Chief Grace's reputation in the opinion he wrote for the Voice (a publication that he

owns)! Maybe Scotty should take some blame since he was at most of the meetings. He has access to the executive sessions and he's on the parks committee. Why didn't he address the budget issues at the time these events occurred? I noticed that other publications had questioned the budget on several occasions.

Let's examine the facts surrounding Scotty's allegations. First of all...Chief Grace is regarded as a highly ethical individual within the law enforcement community. He was hired by the City of Vernonia to be a part time chief working two days a week. How much can one person accomplish working two days a week? Why was Chief Grace hired in the first place? Was it because they needed a legitimate chief in order for the VPD to be recognized as a legitimate police department? Before Chief Grace was hired there wasn't anyone in the VPD qualified to be a chief (and there is no one now). Who was making administrative decisions before Grace? It was obviously Mike Kay. Who was making administrative decisions while Grace was chief? Again, it was Kay! Chief Grace was hired to perform a very limited role in police affairs and now he's being blamed for the city's financial crisis.

Second...Scotty minimized the role the City Council played in the police department's

**Please see page 22**

## Salem Scene

By Representative Brad Witt  
 Oregon District 31



I am in Salem as I write this newsletter. My House committees have met during the past three days for our quarterly "legislative days," which were instituted last session in an effort to economize and consolidate the work we do dur-

ing the interim. In years past, legislators returned to Salem between sessions for informational hearings in preparation for the coming session, but the meetings were scheduled at the convenience of each committee, which made uneven and unpredictable staffing requirements. The current method of requiring everyone to be here at the same time is much more efficient and economical.

Since Tuesday, the committees I sit on have dealt with a variety of issues. Here is a partial list of what your legislature is doing to address the needs of our state, particularly with reference to the economy.

In the Business and Labor Committee, testi-

mony included:

- Small Business Access to Capital
- Economic Impact of Brewing Industries in Oregon
- Community Biomass, Heat and Power (especially important in our District)

In the Business and Labor Subcommittee on Work Force Development, which I chair, we received input on the following topics (and more):

- Major Initiatives of the Oregon Workforce Investment Board
- Career and Technical Education Collaboration Task Force
- Youth Apprenticeship Programs

In the Sustainability and Economic Development Committee, the agenda included the following issues:

- Energy Efficiency
- Update on the Business Energy Tax Credit Work Group

As you can see, the focus of all of this testimony is how to best support the private sector so that jobs can continue to be created in Oregon.

My colleagues and I are intent upon bringing this state back to full health as soon as humanly possible and none of us will breathe easy until we've turned the corner.

## 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.

## Ike Says . . .

**From page 2**

Good luck on your hunting seasons, but regardless of success, be safe.

## Izaak Walton League, Nehalem Valley Chapter

meets monthly on the 3rd Thursday at 7:00 p.m. Call 503-429-7193 for location.