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Letters

It's time for change of city leadership

To the Editor:

We urge you to vote for Josette Mitchell for Mayor. Change is good, and it's time for a change in Vernonia. Many changes are coming in the next few years and Josette Mitchell is the one to lead us through those changes.

Josette Mitchell was an extremely competent team leader of the Ford Family Co-hort 2 project to build the Courtyard next to the Learning Center. She propped us up when we got discouraged and kept the project going through to the end. She researched each step and knew how and why we were doing things and made sure they were done correctly.

Josette Mitchell volunteered for the City Budget Committee – a thankless job. She had the confidence to make hard decisions and was willing to stand behind all the decisions she made. Again, she researched, investigated and knew what she was talking about.

Josette Mitchell has been a leader in keeping the Vernonia Learning Center open. She has donated countless volunteer efforts to the community. Josette lives in Vernonia with her husband, Casey, and daughter, Sailor. As a family they volunteer for many community projects.

We urge you to vote for Josette Mitchell for Mayor of Vernonia. She's a leader you can count on to get the job done.

**Carol Davis, Tobie Finzel,
 Kathy Larsen, Vernonia**

Heimuller is right for Columbia County

To the Editor:

Please vote Henry Heimuller for County Commissioner Position 2. I have known Henry personally for many years, and served with him on the RSVP Advisory Council. I respect him and I think he is the best choice for County Commissioner.

Henry has lived in Columbia County all his life, and he has served on many different boards and committees. I especially appreciate his commitment to our senior citizens. As County Commissioner, he'll make sure they have trans-

portation options, and bolster the senior advocate programs at local senior centers, and call on seniors to continue to contribute their time and talents to our community. His kind of support and encouragement for our seniors is a win-win situation that improves life for everyone in the county.

I will be honored to vote for Henry Heimuller for County Commissioner, and I encourage you to vote for him too.

**Cheryl A Welter
 St. Helens**

Candidate states her mayoral priorities

To the Editor:

Citizens of Vernonia: My name is Josette Mitchell. I am running for Mayor of Vernonia. I moved to Vernonia in 1999 and worked in the Vernonia School District from 1999-2003 as an elementary school teacher. My participation in community organizations started in 2000 when I joined the Board of Directors for Vernonia Cares Food Bank, and currently I serve as Board Treasurer. In 2005, I was asked to be a part of the committee for the soon-to-be Vernonia Community Learning Center (VCLC); currently I am the Chair of the VCLC Committee. In 2008 I was appointed to the City Budget committee, and this year I became Budget Committee Chair. Other community involvement includes Vernonia Salmon Festival, Ford Family Cohort 2, Hands-On Art, First Friday, and Open Air Market.

The City of Vernonia needs focused attention. I already have a solid understanding of the city budget. In order to survive, Vernonia must live within its means. The City Council is responsible for steering projects forward, being attentive to what is before them, and doing what is in the best interest for the greatest good of Vernonia. As mayor, I will initiate a return to formal council sessions, and use action lists for tracking and following up on council decisions so issues don't fall through the cracks. I will hold both City Council and myself to a high standard of due diligence, accountability, transparency, and clear unbiased communication of council decisions with our fellow citizens. I

am the motivated and productive leader Vernonia needs. Please vote for me, Josette Mitchell, for City of Vernonia Mayor.

Sincerely,

**Josette Mitchell
 Vernonia**

Homecoming help is greatly appreciated

To the Editor:

The Leadership class of Vernonia High School would like to thank the following people for their help during our 2010 Homecoming Week. We had a great week and couldn't have done it without you!

Thank you: Tom Ramsey and the Vernonia Fire Dept., Mark Brown, Barb Carr, Ms. Bell, Mr. Ward, Carol Senn, Mr. Underwood, Mr. Delemos, Ms. Safier, Mrs. Willard, Mr. Whitman, Lisa Edgar, Julie Ramsey, Kathi Fetsch, James Brookins, Mr. Fellas, Mike Fetch, Deanna Pearl, Randy Parrow, Ginger Westlake, Julie Benes, Mr. Lower, John Steward, and for anyone we missed...once again we thank you!

**Jackson Miller
 PR Representative
 VHS Leadership Class**

Area citizen urges voting for Mitchell

To the Editor:

I don't get to vote for the next Vernonia Mayor. I live South of town. But, I've got much more than a Post Office box investment in the city. I'm the District 5 board member at WOEC and Erika, my wife, spends weeks each year with Vernonia Hands-On Art, arranging and promoting each First Friday and working with the High

School art program. We more than care. We invest our abilities and talents for Vernonia.

More than ever, circumstances demand a strong mayor with leadership stamina through the foreseeable future. So I'm asking you to elect Josette Mitchell as Vernonia's next Mayor. I have witnessed her in action and you have observed and enjoyed the results of Josette's uncompromising personal drive, exceptional managerial skills and inexhaustible efforts to improve the lives of 97064 citizens.

Personal, local and municipal budgets have no expectation of imminent improvement - Josette's the one who took precise action to identify and acted firmly to resolve fiscal uncertainty before the city overspent. Recognized over the long haul - Vernonia's Citizen of Year for 2009. More than a presence at meetings - physically led the Salmon Festival group and team that built VCLC's new courtyard.

Clarity of achievable goals, vision to adapt to circumstances and outstanding motivator of people working with her, Josette Mitchell is the established capable leader willing, ready and able to lead Vernonia through continuing difficult times. I'd vote for her know-

Please see page 21

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.

Out of My Mind . . .

From page 2

capital gains, but he thinks working people should understand that they need to shoulder more of the burden! Few Oregonians earn their living from capital gains and few have big businesses. Most of us work for a living - or would if those tax breaks for the wealthy were used to create jobs here, instead of in China.

We, in the Vernonia School District, should be concerned if Dudley is elected. Even though we passed a \$13 million school bond, what will happen to the support we are getting from Salem?

Kitzhaber wants to *reduce* capital gains taxes, though only for Oregon investments. But he also began the "solutions group" approach for small communities, like Vernonia, with problems that are too big for us to solve alone. Without continued support from Salem, will we be able to complete our new school? Or will we have to use some mods on the new site?