

## 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  
313 Hart 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:rep.deborahboone@state.or.us)  
Website: <http://www.leg.state.or.us/boone>

## Letters

### Vote YES to support law enforcement

To the Editor:

Vote Yes for Sheriff's levy.

A stable and civil society depends on laws and regulations. These guidelines govern how we as people function in our daily lives. If everybody followed the rules and lived like angels, life would be simple. Since we all know this is not the case, then there is the need for deterrents and enforcement. A Nation can have all the laws it wants, but they are symbolic and useless without the concept of a possible police presence. It has been a generation since the Columbia County Sheriff has had adequate funding and it shows. Join me in voting for a more orderly and predictable future.

Jeff VanNatta  
Rainier

### Neighboring sheriff urges YES on 5-210

To the Editor:

As Sheriff of neighboring Clatsop County, I am hoping you will support the efforts of citizens to secure stable funding for your Sheriff's Office. I know Sheriff Dickerson has worked very hard to build the Office of Sheriff into the conservator of the peace it is meant to be. I also know that continuous budget cuts have had a debilitating effect on his ability to provide the services delegated to the Sheriff by our Constitution and state law.

Measure 5-210 provides the dedicated funding needed to finally provide 24/7 patrols, faster response times to emergencies, detectives who can investigate and solve crimes, while at the same time shielding the Sheriff's Office from the budget cuts threatening many Sheriff's services.

In 1993, Clatsop County was in a similar situation. We had no dedicated source of funding for the Sheriff's Office, and as a result, the skeleton crew we had available to address problems in our county could not be as effective as we needed to have a positive impact.

Clatsop County voters passed our stable funding initiative, which enabled us to go from one deputy for every 2400 people to one deputy for every

1,000 people. Measure 5-210 will give your Sheriff enough deputies to go from one deputy for every 3,800 people to one deputy for every 1900 people – a change that will make your county a safer, more economically viable place to live and work.

Please vote YES on Measure 5-210.

Tom Bergin  
Clatsop County Sheriff

### Apology offered

To the Editor:

I apologize for lumping *The Independent* in with *Vernonia's Voice* and the way the *Voice* campaigned to get information out to people so they would show up at the May 2 Vernonia City Council meeting.

Willow Burch  
Vernonia City Councilor

### Objects to change of medical provider

To the Editor:

Re: Medical Provider.

The Medical Board in charge of making the decisions of who will provide Vernonia's service and needs have done so without the consent of the town's people.

If we change provider (Providence) it will cause a lot of people to drive to Hillsboro for service.

Have they shot themselves in the foot. And for a lower grade of service. And how many people will suffer.

Robert Bertonneau  
Vernonia

### School volunteer urges you to help

To the Editor:

Many folks will know me as the Pampered Chef gal in town, even though that has always been a hobby; I had worked daytime for years prior, but with being "unemployed" now about nearly two years, I have found myself needing to make myself busy...thankfully, I have been able to be a lunch buddy for a few months to a 2nd grader and have REALLY enjoyed it. The other classmates argue over who sits next to me.

Following a Vernonia Prevention Coalition meeting where complaints were heard about high school students "making out" in the cafeteria, I said that I could stick around af-

ter my lunch buddy time frame and monitor the students. I have a handful of middle and high school students that I am friends with because of my junior son and my being a band booster, community theatre, and other volunteer work. I figured that it would work well for a 'friend' to be extra 'adult' eyes during lunch. I figured incorrectly because I'm too much of a friend to the kidlets to be authoritative.

The purpose of this letter is to SINCERELY solicit Vernonia folks to volunteer to go through the background check and help at the school where they can.

At the time mid/end of April, I sadly noticed that I had been the ONLY visitor to sign in at the high school over the last week or so. The school does NOT want to turn down volunteers, but at the same time they need to be appropriately placed. I have been able to help with the grade school kids and emcee'ing the Talent Show for Joy for Jaden. Stay tuned for a summer fundraiser talent show!

I have felt very sad about this over the last few weeks, but I understand it. In the meantime, some of the kids have 'friended' me on facebook and that is kind of redeeming, but also remind me of the example that I am. Yikes, eh? Seriously, I advertise with my picture in both of the Vernonia papers to remind myself that I should NOT pick my nose. Ha ha.

But seriously... :-)

Lee Anne Krause  
Vernonia

### Grange fund raiser was very successful

To the Editor:

The one-day Grange fundraising rummage sale was a success. Thanks to everyone who donated so many nice things, shopped, rounded up their purchase prices to make a donation, set up, ran the sale, cleaned up, and hauled the remaining items to St. Mary's for their sale. Special thanks to Julie Prohaska, Ella Tessitor, Maggie Peyton, Penny Costley, and Diana Peach for the hours they put in on the prep, sale day and clean up. It was a great team effort!

Tobie Finzel  
Vernonia

### Great workers made Vernonia really shine

To the Editor:

On behalf of the Vernonia Pride members who helped organize this year's Make Vernonia Shine Day event – Dede Webb, Sally Harrison, Janelle Cedergreen, Sharron Rockwood, Marge Lowrance, Rebecca McGaugh, Pat Phillips and last, but certainly not least, my wonderful mentor Donna Webb. I'd like to thank the 68 people who came out to Make Vernonia Shine Saturday, April 16. I'd also like to thank the Vernonia Health Board for allowing us to set up registration at Providence, Sentry for the donation of bottled water and SOLV for the grant to purchase native shrubs. If I've missed anyone to thank, I'll send in another letter :)

Mother Nature cooperated to give us pretty wonderful working conditions. So many projects were completed in just four short hours. The back of the VCLC was totally cleaned up of 3-years of built-up fir needles and you can now see the asphalt! We also planted the rear area with Oregon Grape shrubs. The base of the trees that line downtown were raked out, debris removed and fresh bark dust was spread. Litter was removed from downtown sidewalks, Shay Park, Hawkins Park and the Lake. The planter box behind the restrooms at Hawkins Park was cleaned out, new shrubs were planted and bark dust was spread. A lot of time was spent on the Lake and debris removal, it looks gorgeous. The Museum had a great crew that did a bunch of yard work and a lot of work was done at the Community Garden. A couple of business owners spent more than the 4-hours working on their store

See Letters on page 20

### 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.