

Letters

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There was plenty to tell council. I have seen evidence where he took steps to hide his involvement while deceiving council. He attempted to let the public believe this was a joint decision made with council's approval.

I have nothing to hide and no hidden agenda. There is no room in our local government for such things. At the start of my term I believed the largest threat to our way of life in Vernonia lay in the sewer. Now I see my statement in the voter pamphlet, "It's time for change in Vernonia City Government" is absolutely true. My intentions are and have always been to do my best for the citizens of Vernonia.

"BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER TO GET THINGS DONE...that's my commitment."

**Willow Burch
Vernonia**

Nicks says problems are Haack's fault

To the Editor:

When running for City Coun-

cil I stated that I would work hard, ask questions, research, and learn what I needed to learn. I have spent on average 40 hrs a week fulfilling that statement. However I was not new to the workings of the city. I had spent several years being a member of committees and attending city functions and meetings. Several days after the November election I received an email from Bill Haack welcoming us with an invite to meet for orientation within 30 days, sharing links to help educate us, a recommendation to step out of leadership roles on City Committees and a request to not attend the Planning Commission meetings. I also received an invite and met with Joann and Angie as well. I was very optimistic and encouraged to begin. We all knew we were inheriting problems and had huge issues facing us such as hiring a permanent City Administrator, council training, and goal setting to name a few. Signs we had other issues began to unfold. In an effort to become informed, an executive session was requested to-

wards the end of January. Bill's response was that we didn't have an issue to bring to executive session. Again a request was made for executive session regarding any outstanding investigation involving the City of Vernonia and any past investigation related to the ongoing investigation. Bill replied we are not scheduling an executive session at this time as there was no specific topic to discuss. Once again, an executive session was requested. Although we finally received one, we were not fully informed of many vital issues. It was much later that we became aware of Bill's actions. It concerns me that the K-9 contract was brought before Council for approval with unresolved certification issues. Three months after Bill's invite, I finally met with him on February 17th. During that meeting was when he projected that water/sewer bills would increase as much as \$85.00 a month. His apparent lack of concern troubled me. At that meeting, I also asked if he was interested in the City Administrator job. He was non-

committal. That's one reason why I voted for the League of Oregon Cities process. The other reasons were to be fair and to give the City a wider range of choices. From the beginning of my term, it was difficult to get information from Bill, such as the Brown & Caldwell summary concerning the wastewater treatment plant. I was very concerned with the deteriorating relationship, so, in April, I proposed we call in a mediator. With several options for a mediator, Bill was to contact them. A panel consisting of Bill, a councilor (me) and a citizen would set the scope. After Bill contacted Jim Johnson, he notified me that Jim would contact me directly, and withdrew from the process. At the May 2nd Council meeting, I did not think it was appropriate for Bill to disseminate anything other than a press release when an employee's due process had not taken place. It was stated that the information was an update, however, Council already had the information. I believed it to be a potential liability for the City. It was not my intention

to withhold information from the public. Although Bill may have expertise in some areas, I do not believe he is the appropriate choice for City Administrator. His idea of a treatment plant that costs approximately \$10 million, with a \$1 million maintenance cost; increasing the cost of a project manager from \$60,000 to \$170,000 per year; not putting \$157,000 in our loan reserve even though the audit states that it's necessary; and a sewer fund that, in two years, will be in the negative just to maintain the present level of spending are some of my reasons. I have not deliberated as part of a quorum or broken any public meeting laws. All of my decisions were made with the best interests of the citizens of Vernonia in mind. It deeply saddens me that our town has become so divided. It is my hope that we can begin working together and move forward. Please vote no on the recall.

**Marilyn Nicks
Vernonia City Councilor**

Obituary

RACHELLE B. "SHELLY" LAW

Rachelle Beverly "Shelly" Law, 39, Vernonia, died June 23, 2011. Private interment has been held.

Ms. Law was born June 18, 1972, in Portland, to David J. and Gail B. (Rich) Law. She graduated from Sunset High School in 1992.

She won more than 52 medals in Special Olympics. She enjoyed volleyball, basketball, softball, and sprinting.

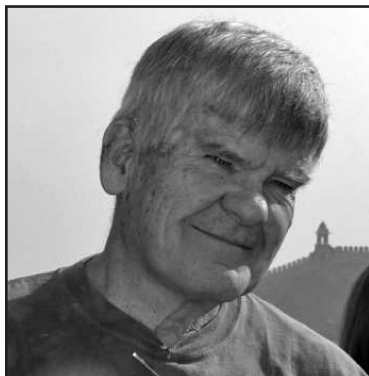
Survivors include her mother of Vernonia; one son and one daughter, both of Vernonia.

Tualatin Valley Funeral Alternatives in Hillsboro was in charge of arrangements.

FRAZIER HARLAN ROHM

Frazier Harlan Rohm, 79, Vernonia, died July 2, 2011. A celebration of life was held July 16.

Mr. Rohm was born September 23, 1931, in Chicago, Illinois, to Zeta Mary Jarvis and Frederick Harlan Rohm. He attended Reed College, then received a bachelor's degree in science from the University of



Frazier H. Rohm

Washington and a PhD in Inorganic Chemistry from Washington State University. He worked for many years at Tektronix in their Analytical Lab.

His life mate for over 40 years was Katharine Denckla.

He was a generous man with a wry, compelling sense of humor. He held strong opinions and loved to travel.

He was preceded in death by his sister, Dorita J. Kerner.

Survivors include his life mate; children, William Anton Rohm, Michael Tigger and Susan Marie Rohm, Lisa Lee Rohm, Mary Margaret Miller, Karen Lee and Earl Davis, Jennifer Anne and Martin Holm; one sister, Deborah Balkis Smith; 11 grandchildren; one soon to be born great-granddaughter; one niece.

Remembrances are suggested to the Vernonia Rural Fire Department or Vernonia Cares Food Bank.

JOSHUA G. "JOSH" WATSON

Joshua Gayl "Josh" Watson, 34, Vernonia, died July 10, 2011 of injuries received in a motor vehicle accident. Private cremation rites have been held.



Joshua G. "Josh" Watson

Mr. Watson was born March 29, 1977, in McMinnville, to Gaylon Patrick Watson and Connie Lynn (Miller) Watson Houck. He was raised in Newberg. He moved to Vernonia in 2010.

He enjoyed hunting, fishing, and his dog, Brody.

Survivors include his wife, Natalie Watson; his daughter, Kelsea J. Watson; his parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews.

Remembrances are suggested to the Dale C. Houck/Kelsea J. Watson Benefit Memorial Fund at any Wells Fargo Bank branch.

Fuiten, Rose & Hoyt Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.



*In Loving Memory of
Linda Webster
November 15, 1950
July 21, 2008
Terry*



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