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**Resigned — no replacement until election**

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**Letters**

**Good warning about dogs and salmon**

To the Editor:  
Being a lover of all animals and especially dogs, I was so happy to see your article on salmon poisoning and potential death for dogs! I live on Fishhawk Lake and several years ago, came within a hair's breadth of losing our beloved Golden Retriever, Jenna, because she ate salmon that spawn up there in the creeks every year. I took her into the vet's office in Hillsboro, who misdiagnosed her initially (we've changed vets since). This is why I am writing this, because the symptoms can easily present as any number of OTHER diagnoses...and time is of the essence in saving our pets after they've eaten salmon, and MUST be correctly diagnosed quickly. If a veterinarian doesn't often see this, or is not aware of the travelling someone has done near a river or other waters during salmon spawning season (as an example), then you, as the dog own-

er have to be their advocate and let them know that it could be from eating salmon!

I list and sell real estate at Fishhawk Lake and tell all of my clients who have dogs about this hazard and have an article of my own about it on one of my websites, too. You have to also be especially aware of puppies doing the same thing (my young Golden Retriever pup got into salmon during a long spawning season and I'm thankful to Dr. Goza's office and the Vernonia Pharmacy for having the antibiotics readily handy for me to get ahold of quickly and thus saving his life).

I would recommend that this article be resurrected every year as salmon spawning begins.

Thank you!

**Gayle C. Rich-Boxman  
Fishhawk Lake**

*Note: We, at The Independent, are dog owners and advocates, and run this article every year.*

**Young athlete works to earn tourney fund**

To the Editor:

Hello to all; my name is Payton Wolf and for those of you who don't remember me, I play tournament Softball. I am in the 7th grade now and am playing for a new team, Blaze~Ohana, out of Beaverton. I switched teams to get a little more competitive and because I wanted to be able to go to Colorado for Western Nationals. We will be going to Colorado at the end of June 2012, and I am responsible for paying my way to get there.

Last year I fundraised and earned the whole amount of money I needed to play on my Softball team. That is my plan again this year and I am so thankful for all of you who supported me and participated in my fundraisers. I have a new fundraiser I am doing which is selling Christmas Wreaths. I have three different styles and from those styles you can choose what size you'd like. There is the regular round

wreath, swag or candy cane shaped wreath. They range anywhere from \$15-\$36 depending on the size you want. I am also still collecting cans and bottles or any other donation you may have.

If you are interested in purchasing a wreath or just want to donate your cans, please call me or my parents, Steve and Amanda Wolf, at 503-429-0457 or e-mail ([amandawo@msn.com](mailto:amandawo@msn.com)). Thanks so much for your support,

**Payton Wolf  
Vernonia**

**Help needed for trip to Washington, D.C.**

To the Editor:

My name is Bradley Ely, and I am 13 and an 8th grade student at Vernonia Middle School this year. I have been accepted into the Leadership class and I am going on a Close-Up trip with them to Washington D.C., but I first have to raise about \$2,000. To help with this I would like to ask you to call when you have any spare cans and bottles that are lying around that you would like picked up and I can return for money. It will be appreciated very much and will help me get closer to my goal! The class is also holding drives for you to drop off cans and bottles where we will all split the money on November 19th, January 7th, and March 17th. Our leadership class is also selling pointsettias that you can order from any one of us.

I am leaving in April so you can call me at any time between now and then. If you would like to reach me, you can call 503-429-5709. I also do bake sales at Sentry on Oct. 22, Nov. 18 and Jan. 20. Those also help me earn money, so you can buy jams, jellies and fresh baked goods there if you

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**Salem Scene**

*By Representative Brad Witt  
Oregon District 31*



I'm writing this on September 22 from Salem as we are in the midst of our quarterly "Legislative Days." It is our opportunity to hold informational meetings in anticipation of the full session in February 2012. We also circle

back with the agencies to make sure that legislation already passed is being implemented properly. Since our legislature is not full-time, we need these opportunities to collect data, discuss options for possible solutions and draft appropriate legislation.

A case in point is the current difficulty being experienced by participants in the Senior Tax Deferral Program. Under the program, the state pays the property taxes for qualified applicants, and then the state is paid back when the property is sold or the person dies and their estate pays the deferred property taxes plus interest. This program is designed to be self-funding, but the current housing crisis has created havoc with the process and it is now \$19 million in the hole.

In order to protect the long-term viability of the program, the legislature passed HB 2453 last session, which requires reapplication every two years, imposes a house value "test," and discontinues participation by those who hold a reverse mortgage. The House Revenue Committee has asked the Department of Revenue to prepare a

full report on this issue including who was denied, why they were denied and what options are available to the Legislature when we reconvene in February. It is my opinion that we need to do everything that we can to protect the ability of senior citizens to stay in their homes.

Another point of discussion during these legislative days is the September Revenue Forecast that we received at the end of August. There are many in our state that are still suffering greatly from this recession however, compared to the national economy, Oregon's economy seems to be showing some preliminary signs of improvement.

Our job rate increase is in the top 25% in the nation, and we have added private sector jobs every quarter since the beginning of the year. The investments we made in the Jobs and Transportation Act, capital construction projects and healthy kids in 2009 have all helped spur job increases in important sectors of our economy.

On the budget side, we have enough in reserves to cover the current revenue decline. So for the time being, our best course of action is "steady as we go." We continue to emphasize fiscal prudence and we join the Governor in urging all agencies to be cautious with their spending. This global recession has been longer and deeper than anyone could have predicted. Let's hope we see the end of this soon...

It's been a terrific summer with lots of in-district events, county fairs and city festivals. It's a great opportunity to meet constituents face-to-face and listen to your concerns. Please be assured that my staff and I continue to be available by email, letter or phone, so don't hesitate to contact us.

**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.