

**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 Dan Wu (Dem) OR District 1**  
 620 SW Main, Suite 2338  
 Portland, OR 97205  
 Phone: 503-225-0855  
 E-Mail: <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**

**Fund raising problem is nearing correction**

To the Editor:  
 We all want to believe in the greater good of someone and believe that they genuinely care about an organization they want to provide a fundraiser for. That is not always the case as we have recently learned. The repercussions of one's actions can be disappointing, time consuming and hard to understand.

Last Spring our youth baseball program was approached with an offer to do a fundraiser to help raise money for our boy's baseball program, operated through our local Booster organization. At the time this seemed like a good and easy way to raise a couple hundred dollars to support our program. Unfortunately, things did not go as planned and the fundraiser that should have been all wrapped up by the end of June is still an ongoing problem! We, as a nonprofit organization, as parents of baseball players, as friends, family and coworkers of baseball players, and most of all our kids have been taken advantage of.

Many untruths were told along the way only to confuse and prolong the process of getting this situation straightened out. Our number one goal has been to get people the products that they paid for back in June. Our second goal has been to get our baseball program the money profited by this fundraiser. It has not been without countless hours and effort put into this matter that we have almost reached our goals. We will not stop working on this until everyone has been taken care of.

We have definitely learned from this experience as a baseball board. Although our main fault was being trusting, we certainly never predicted the problems that were to come. We know now to get everything in writing no matter who the offer to help comes from. We also learned to better research the financial benefit to our cause as well as the customer satisfaction history on the person leading the fundraiser.

Throughout this fundraiser the business in question has been helpful and understanding, and has been fulfilling those orders that still had not

been delivered by the representative in charge of the fundraiser. We hope that this does not poorly reflect on the business or other representatives. This was a problem with an individual, not the company in general.

And for those of you out there whose intentions are less than honorable; please leave our kids and nonprofit organizations alone!

**Junior Baseball Organization Board,  
 Pres. Brooke Morrison  
 Treasurer Amy Cieloha  
 Secretary Cami Archer**

**Being homeless is a learning situation**

To the Editor:  
 Our family arrived in Oregon over a year ago. We have seen so much since our decision to vacation for three months while my husband and I tried to see who could obtain work. The idea was for him to retire and mom (being me) would go back to work. This plan didn't go as we had hoped. In a way it has been enlightening.

I have wondered over the past three years where people were going after the banks foreclosed on their homes. We have now met many of those folks. I have also talked with and listened to many people over the years. Many think homeless people are lazy – just looking for handouts and don't want to work. I have to say even I have viewed the homeless in a similar way – as those that didn't wish to face the challenges of alcohol or drug abuse and maybe even mental challenges. My view came from the news and how they portray homelessness. It also came from how my parents viewed the homeless people they called "hobos".

That was yesterday's homeless. Today we have a new homeless. I didn't see it until our trip to Oregon, after our plan to relocate didn't go as we planned. Today's homeless are renters, the unemployed, people whose homes have gone into foreclosure. The younger and older generations who can't afford a home. All mixed with yesterday's homeless.

The sad part is that some of us have income and can't get into a home. We have also had bad experiences with home-

owners who foreclosed on homes we rented. Many of us have paid off bills in hopes of relocating to an area where we could own a home only to find ourselves listed as homeless.

It cost a bit more sometimes to camp than rent, but the feeling of security we have knowing we won't be losing our shelter outweighs the costs.

The new homeless are good folks just trying to make it. The sad part is many of us are labeled as those who may not want to make it. The future homeless are going to have even more people like us. Until one experiences homelessness one can't even understand how it feels. Just being called homeless, or to hear someone refer to someone as being lazy due to being homeless still hurts.

We knew the economy was a mess. We believed that moving and starting over was a good idea. We have met some really good people. When one is camping, one blends in with other campers. We didn't hear ourselves referred to as homeless until the church and school labeled us as homeless. So if one doesn't live in a home that is attached to solid ground, one is homeless in the eyes of today's people. Many seniors today live in mobile homes as they did when I was a child. Many of them serve as campground hosts due to the high cost of living in a home. So we are looking into being camp hosts. Our only issue is we still have school-aged teens and we would like to stop moving so they can finish school. Our youngest is done with school in five years.

Our hope is still to own a home with land to pass on to our kids and grandkids. It is pretty sad that our government has let things get this out of hand. During the Great Depression, the President signed a law which didn't allow property or land to be taken until the economy and jobs recovered. That was very smart as taxes continued to be paid, farms continued producing crops and people were able to find work. Today we are just increasing the problem; banks, loan companies and realtors don't pay property taxes until a property is sold. So jobs will continue to be lost and homes foreclosed on.

Many people think that someone going through foreclosure is walking away. Many don't understand how people ended up in foreclosure. Renters are also now being affected. Our family was renters – we owned our own home and sold it 15 years ago when we needed a larger place when a family member needed to stay with us. Then the house we were renting went into foreclosure.

Some people might ask, how can homeowners not see foreclosure coming? But I believe the more important questions is, why is this happening in our country? The answer – because we all trusted that we as Americans (our assets, how companies operate, control of monopolies) were being watched over. But we were fooled – had the wool pulled over our eyes. Whatever one wants to call it, we lose. What can we do to fix it? Stand up, educate ourselves and our youth and vote.

Our family has tried many things, advertising on Craigslist that we would help a family if they had a second home on their land they could rent, or park our trailer and help them pay their mortgage so our family had a place to stay and at the same time help them save their home. We have not had any takers. We continue to go month by month hoping something might change. Our prayer is that no one else has to go through what our family has had to go through.

Yes, it has been an adventure. We have been helped and have helped others, too. We have met some really special people. I have fished with many good hearted folks and even had good friends come and stay with us for a few nights. That made our temporary home really feel like our home. So, at times I have not felt

**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.