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Letters

Unnecessary wars interfere with needs

To the Editor:
 As a candidate for the U.S. Congress, House of Representatives, 1st district of Oregon.

At age 80, here's my short personal take on running for U.S. Congress.

1. Not for the faint of heart.
2. Have a message that is real and precious. My platform is: Get out of the war business, govern by consensus/compromise, which most Americans support.

Have a plan to get elected - I didn't, just the hope of getting my message out. The "good" that could happen, with all the country's needs - jobs, education, health care, etc., etc., etc., - won't happen when we're still doing unnecessary wars.

Our congress has no morals, but lots of greed. Forty thousand lobbyists with big checkbooks, unlimited campaign contribution. That needs to change. I would propose a

\$50.00 limit on lobbyist and campaign contributions. We need a people congress, you can't recall congress, but you can request expulsion which would have the same effect.

My grandchildren matter, your grandchildren matter. It's your country, your congress, your opportunity and obligation to make it better.

Thanks for listening - Vote.
Dan Strite Warrenton

Information on local internet access

To the Editor:
 The Vernonia Economic Development Committee and the City Administrator would like to inform the community of two recent developments related to high speed internet access:

1. Frontier has recently improved their DSL equipment within town. Frontier subscribers should be able to obtain internet access as follows:
 - a. Now: approximately 7

Mbps download within a 2 to 3 mile radius from their switch building, and approximately 2.5 to 3 Mbps within a 4 to 5 mile radius. (Frontier's switch building is just east of the central bridge in town.)

b. By July 2013: Four remote switches will be upgraded such that approximately 85% of Frontier's subscribers should be able to obtain 3 Mbps.

2. Coho.Net, based in Hillsboro, has recently installed 5 to 10+ Mbps internet service to the Vernonia Airport. They are willing to provide service to residents in the Vernonia area who either do not want to wait for 1b above, who fall outside the 85%/3 Mbps service area of Frontier, or determine that they can get faster speeds from Coho due to their location.

a. Coho.Net's service is via microwave (wireless) transmission that requires line-of-site repeaters placed in towers or tall trees. They are willing to install selected repeaters to serve approximately (10) or

more subscribers each, at rates competitive to DSL and satellite.

Notes: All speeds listed are approximate minimums. Both Frontier and Coho.Net provide upgrade options for heavy/business users. You can contact Frontier to request a line test to your residence for a more precise estimate of your expected DSL speed.

Mitch Seibert Vernonia

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.

City Update

City Administrator Haack gives updates on projects

by Bill Haack, Administrator City of Vernonia

The City of Vernonia continues to review changes and improvements in our public works water, sewer and stormwater facility plans.

At this time, the City is embarked on a water rate study that will lead to a modification of the water utility rates. This discussion has been of interest to the City Council since 2007 and the City has sought professional input three times to support the work of the City Engineer and the Public Works Committee.

Earlier this year the City engaged Oregon Association of Water Utilities (OAWU) to take our ideas and put them into a framework for our review.

Our core assumptions are

as follows:

- The base rate should cover 60-75% of the annual operating costs for the water fund budget (this is a Best National from the Rural Water Association)
- Rate structure should be fair and equitable to all classes of users
- Rate structure supporting users outside of the City limits should pay a consumption cost commensurate with users who live within the City limits
- Rate structure should forecast future adjustments in the rate structure on an annual basis
- Rate structure should include reserve accounts to make debt payments and to establish a capital improvement program
- Rate structure should be professionally reassessed on

average every five years by a third party

The members of the City Council and the Public Works Committee are reviewing a draft water rates schedule and plan to have a public hearing in the near future on the proposed changes.

As we have reported in the past, the City is actively working on a plan to modify the wastewater facility to further our plan to both be a good steward of the environment and to be in compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act.

As many of you know the City is out of compliance with the State of Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. Per our NPDES Permit, the City is re-

stricted from releasing third stage water discharge into the Nehalem River for a period of time due to the differential in temperature between the lagoons and the river in the warmer months of the year. For the majority of the year, however, this is not a problem for DEQ, and the City discharges to the river during those months of the year.

Recently Jon Forrester, representing the City contract engineer (HLB OTAK, Gearhart OR) made a presentation to City Council that described the City's revised plan for the wastewater facility. Following a meeting with DEQ last month, HLB OTAK has initiated a plan to redirect the discharge from the third lagoon to underground sand and gravel layer below ground. This is called hyperoxic discharge. In our meeting with DEQ, it became clear that this model is a great use of natural groundwater to cool the discharge prior to reintegrating with the flow of the river channel. To add information to our study of this model, the City hired Shannon and Wilson, a

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Ike Says . . .

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 and the tail was long! Cougar! Swinging his rifle off his shoulder he got on the cat just as it turned sideways and walked into the reprod. My friend simply could not get the

shot off in time before the cat got away. So within one day my friend had seen six deer predators. While some may think that Bobcats are not deer predators, they would be wrong, especially in regards to young

deer.
 Please be safe while hunting, wear your hunter orange and clearly identify your target, we have already lost one citizen this hunting season; we don't need any more accidents.