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Letters

Your gift of help is precious to others

To the Editor:

The holiday season is upon us. For those of you reading this message now is a time of giving. If you are blessed with housing, heat, food and employment I hope you will consider giving the gift of your time or a financial donation to an agency in your area who can help those most in need this time of year. A gift, no matter how small, is precious and appreciated in more ways than can be counted. Thank you very much.

**Cindy Peake
Astoria**

Rainier recall effort is right way to go

To the Editor:

A Vote for Rainier.
Thank you Don Puckett for stepping up to the plate starting the recall of Rainier City Councilors Russ Moon and David Langford. It's not surprising that in less than a week more than 150 signatures were gathered. I had hoped Mr. Moon and Mr. Langford would save the City the cost and embarrassment of a recall and resign. But then again, it wouldn't be like this team to bow-out gracefully.

As a City Councilor I felt the brunt of the rude and erratic behavior of David Langford and have been a target of Russ Moon's Bullying. Moon overstepping his authority is second nature. This madness has to stop for Rainier to move forward. The actions of these men have taken a dramatic toll on the City and cost Rainier taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars. I join the Friends of Rainier, Mayor and support the sitting Councilors in this recall effort. A vote to remove Russ Moon and David Langford from the Rainier City Council is a Vote for Rainier.

**Judith Taylor
Former City Councilor
Rainier**

Vote for leadership is greatly needed

To the Editor:

Well folks, has anyone noticed the land of the free is being systematically dismantled? Not only that, but it's being re-

placed by a self-serving, dysfunctional, out of control government. Our politicians can't seem to live up to their oath of office, much less show an attempt to work together and solve the many problems we are faced with as a nation. The blame game is most assuredly alive and well in Washington D.C. on both sides of the aisle.

"We the people" are at the mercy of elected officials that are completely out of touch with our problems. It seems to be more important to the politicians to run for re-election than to care for the 14 million Americans out of work and losing their homes.

Our nation's economy is looking more and more like the depression era every day, and the world's economy is burning like Rome. Our legislation tells us, "Deal with it...we're going on vacation!" Does that sound right to you? It sounds to me like they've lost their marbles!

As a 74-year-old American citizen, and a Navy veteran, all of the above are simply unacceptable. This country was established "**For the people, by the people.**" **Not for the government, by the government!** Don't fall for this bovine defecation! I urge all the citizens of the United States to go to the polls and vote...vote in some real leadership. **We** can turn this country around if our current elected officials won't.

**Don Sandrich
Vernonia**

Thanks for help with community dinner

To the Editor:

We'd like to thank the many people who supported our Thanksgiving community dinner with donated food and labor. Special thanks go to Cathy Meyer for her very hard work, and to the Vernonia Community Church for allowing us the use of their building. Around 130 people joined us for a friendly meal, and we're very happy to have served the community this way.

Our church plans more events of this kind in the new year, and we hope you'll join us then, too.

Again, many thanks...and may you have a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

**Members of Pioneer
Baptist Fellowship**

Tort claim for Kay is oddly humorous

To the Editor:

The other day, on a whim and caprice or maybe just a lark, I decided to test my constitutional rights. I entered city hall. I ask to "review" the tort claim entered by Mike Kay's extremely adequate lawyer, Michelle R. Burrows (<http://michelleburrows.com>). Michelle's case history is admirable, especially the Kaady v. City of Sandy, Oregon.

I filled out the proper paperwork and the city recorder, Joann Glass, was kind enough to accommodate my query. We sat at a desk next to the hallway entrance to the police department. The lighting was good but I still wore my spectacles as my eyesight is failing me at my tender age.

Tort Claim; four pages; four minutes. Decision: Mike Kay was displayed in a "dim light". Is full lighting, now, a constitutional right!?!?

Maybe I misread; maybe I missed something but to my amusement I never noticed one mention of a "cognizable (clearly identifiable) constitutional right". Clearly this tort claim is one of "whim and caprice". I see no basic criteria of viability for this tort claim being tried or adjudicated before any tribunal. I see one big failure to state a claim of sufficient facts, if taken as true, would indicate any violation of the law occurred or that the claimant is entitled to legal remedy.

I hope the City of Vernonia vies for a dismissal of this case but be wary, this is only the first volley in the set. My advice is to study the due process rights of police officers – section 3303 – investigations interrogations; conduct, conditions, representations, reassignments (<http://www.porac.org/POBOR.html>).

Res Ipsa Loquitur,
**Mark J. Akers
Vernonia**

Thanks for the help improving Grange

To the Editor:

With the season of gratitude upon us, I'd like to express thanks for the many volunteers that make this community tick. Without all of the social service, cultural, civic, and faith-based organizations that are primarily

or completely staffed by loyal volunteers, I can't imagine what life would be for those of us who love living here.

I'm especially grateful this year for the new members of the Vernonia Grange who have transformed the well-loved but aging interior of the Grange Hall into a warm and welcoming space. With Britt Bensen-Steele's vision of what it could be and the donated materials and hours of skilled work and artistry by Britt, Diana Peach, Julie Prohaska, Larry Steele, Randy Lee, Jim Buxton, Cici Bell, Dr. Carol McIntyre, and many others, it's been both physically and spiritually renewed. The Grange gratefully received a generous donation from the Vernonia Lions towards this refurbishment, and upgraded appliances from Evan Doyle and Ken Pitts. I also want to thank Robb Wilson and Maggie Peyton for their many years of dedication to maintaining this century-plus building by providing post-flood cleanup, new exterior paint, infrastructure repair, and other improvements that have kept the Grange a treasured community space.

**Tobie Finzel
Vernonia**

Europe and USA both have debt crisis

To the Editor:

What Europe and America have in common.

Europe and the USA have many things in common, one of which noted currently is the massive debt crisis both are experiencing because of politicians who fail to learn from history. George Santayana noted that those who fail to learn from the mistakes of the past are doomed to repeat them. In both Europe and the United States, power-hungry politicians have been trying to buy votes with

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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.