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Letters

Fair play, regulation can balance economy

To the Editor:
For sure, times are tough for Vernonians, let alone everyone else. Most folks, locally, want a good job, housing, food, to buy a few things, go visit a few places, have transportation, education for the kids and adequate services like police, fire, utilities and civic events.

This isn't happening like it should. Why?

There are two economies: (1) Global and (2) Local.

Globally, business is very good; the cost of workers (worldwide, including child and slave-like labor) is extremely low; fringe benefits are non-existent; regulation does not exist; sale prices of goods is very, very good. Profits are excellent and in the billions, that is with a "B", billions.

Locally, minimum wage, or slightly above, is what you get, if at all. Unemployment is high. Housing, utilities, government services, medical care, gasoline...everything, is way more expensive than wages. Most folks are broke and on the edge. Why?

We've been robbed. How? The Global Economy is run by 1% of the folks on the planet. The Local Economies consist of the remaining 99%, the workers and local business folks.

Financial movers and shakers control technology and the global banks, that is, the "Banksters" rule who gets what

and when. This is not good or bad, it is what is. They have their own rules, to create profit and control. Simple. If you, as an individual, are not included, tough.

Control in the United States is done by the Federal Reserve Banking System, a "private" business organization. It is not owned by the Federal Government.

How did they rob us? Most recently? By deliberate, rehearsed testing and planning, and then actually giving loans to everyone (wink, wink) on anything, especially houses. Repayment? Not a problem. Why? If you don't pay, the bank owns what you have; and they take it back, which is what their plan was in the first place. (I am not talking about most local, small banks and credit unions. They are the ones that will bring sanity back).

Meanwhile, all those loans were thrown into a big pot, mixed into a kind of financial "hamburger"; rated as A+ by crooked associates of the banksters, and sold in very highly priced pieces as "pure gold" to a gullible world market, including dumb folks and investors in the United States. The result? Billions of dollars in loot, into bankster Swiss bank accounts or places like the Bahamas; and, best of all for the banksters, no taxes!!

Well, what happened? We got robbed, not by someone sticking a gun in our face and saying "hands up". No, this was an "Inside-Job" by folks in suits

who were supposedly keeping our money and economy safe.

Since anyone could get a loan, housing prices responded by going sky high. Money was everywhere. Loans got bigger, bigger and bigger and "Pop"!! Wages could not keep up, people could not pay loan payments, banks foreclosed, bank owned assets skyrocketed; people lost jobs; small businesses could not operate and CRRRRASH!! 99% broke...1% own most everything. Slick.

Ohh, and by the way, wages are a lot lower in China, so, banksters moved all our jobs overseas. Homeless? Tough.

What about Vernonia? Well, let's take one example: since money was so easily available during the bubble, a hedge fund in Canada borrowed a lot of money on thin-air and bought Long Fibre timber company, whose owners bailed out with millions, no problem for them. The new owners, in Canada, began cutting everything. Nice run for awhile. Sawmills were converted to pulp mills; a lot of folks were thrown out of work; logs were thrown onto the export market and..."pop"!! What about sustained growth and steady timber industry employment? Get a life, you're fired! And by the way, taxes on the profits? Forget it, we took the money elsewhere. And the problem, you folks are having with floods? Sorry about that. We replanted fast growing hybrids but, meanwhile, all that collapse of the canopy and destruction of the

forest floor, which mushed up all your rivers and streams and your town...nasty break. Maybe you can flip burgers.

Solution? Rules of fair play and regulation of the banksters for the benefit of the 99% of us. It will take a while. But do this one thing, GET OUT AND VOTE!!

**Jack Phillips
Vernonia**

Vernonia really does care: Thank you!

To the Editor:

Dear Vernonia Cares Food Bank Supporters; Thank you, one and all, for your continued support for our Holiday Grocery Box Project. Thanks to your generosity, 205 households (containing 652 people) were given a turkey and food for their Christmas meal. This project is always strongly supported by individuals and organizations throughout our Vernonia community. Truly, you exemplify what our name says, "Vernonia Cares!"

Gratefully,

**Sandy Welch, Director
Vernonia Care Food Bank**

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.

Vernonia City Update

Haack explains tree cutting on Bridge and Missouri

by *Bill Haack, City Administrator*

The City of Vernonia and the Vernonia School District are coordinating the development of the Bridge Street Improvement Project in conjunction with the new construction of the K-12 school campus on Missouri Avenue. In December 2010, then Governor Ted Kulongoski announced that Oregon Department of Transportation had found grant resources to allow an award of \$3.8 million toward road improvements on Bridge Street between

Texas Avenue and Spencer Avenue and along the length of Missouri Avenue to the then proposed new school campus.

Now in January 2012, over the next few months, in advance of the road improvements, two projects will unfold: (1) a tree removal project and (2) a hydrant relocation project. ODOT is in the process of putting out a small contract for tree removal. In advance of that project, they will mark all of the trees to be cut. I know in advance that this change will cause some chagrin, and I am hopeful that we can find a way

to accept this modification in the landscape as a sign of progress.

The required movement of the fire hydrant is specifically to allow for the realignment of Bridge Street. However the City intends to realign it also to allow for the eventual modification of Lakeview Terrace to align with Missouri to make a true intersection. This future modification will also allow for better access for Vernonia Rural Fire Protection District trucks to enter their fire station off of Lakeview in the future.

