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Letters

Thank you for buying Girl Scout cookies

To the Editor:
We wanted to say thank you to everyone who helped support the Girl Scouts by buying cookies from us. Whether it was from a Girl Scout you knew or from one of us at the booth at Sentry, the support is greatly appreciated.

Our troop went beyond our goal of selling enough boxes to go to a pool party as well as donating 10% of our profits to Turner for flood recovery.

We also earned enough for an extra special treat such as another outing or party. Thank you again, without you, we could not have achieved our goals.

Girl Scout Brownie Troop 43023; Carly, Brianna, Averie, Taylor, Nita, Abby, Kaili, Morgan, Audrey, Sailor, Angie, Sky, Sadie, Hennessy, Jenna, Sydney, Cassidy, and Jayda Vernonia

Support for school fund is appreciated

To the Editor:
The VHS Leadership Class would like to thank the local businesses that supported the Donate a Dollar, Build a School, Save a Town campaign. The fundraiser received \$1,619.10 for our new school. We would like to thank the following businesses for displaying the donation jars and promoting our cause: NAPA Auto Parts, Bridge Street Mini Mart, Mariolino's, Clever Cricket, True Value Hardware, Vernonia Pharmacy, Sentry Market, Black Bear Coffee Co., and Creatures Pet Store. We appreciate your help. Without your dedication to our new school, we could not have raised the money.

Thank you so much!
Vernonia High School Leadership Class

Thanks, Synda, for 20 years of service

To the Editor:
Have you heard? One of 'US' is leaving. Synda and Ray Allen have decided to leave their post as care-takers at the cemetery and sadly Vernonia too.

I can't let this happen without saying a big "Thank You!"

to her for her 20 years of service to the city.

Synda has cared for our departed loved one's last resting place, through rain or shine, good times and bad, so that we may visit there and be proud.

She has always shown a caring heart for the families left behind. Her memorial services have been memorable.

20 years, 20 years of respectful service.

So thank you, Synda, for your hard work, but most of all, thank you for being the caring, loving lady you are.

I can only hope we find someone to fill your shoes who will care half as much as you.

Much luck in your new "digs".

Sally Harrison Vernonia

Hyde has worked for all of Columbia Co.

To the Editor:
As residents of Columbia County and retired teachers for the Vernonia School District, it is with confidence and high regard to say that our county is in good hands with Tony Hyde as one of our county commissioners.

Year after year we have personally witnessed the commitment Tony has given to this county and the town of Vernonia. He continues to prove himself with his hard work and effort to help our county prosper, and our small town flourish.

Out of My Mind

From page 2
elements for profitable businesses and a healthy economy.

Your income taxes also pay for many non-tax corporate subsidies. These include farm subsidies that go to mostly big ag corporations for corn, soy beans, cotton and wheat, despite their high, and highly profitable prices. In contrast, only 13% of farm subsidies go to farmers who grow vegetables.

Other non-tax subsidies include those for the exploration and development of oil/gas wells. Once the wells are producing, their operators receive depletion subsidies. Yep, we pay them to find and develop the wells, then we pay them because they use up the product we paid them to find. And BP saved \$13 billion in taxes by writing off losses from their gulf oil spill. In other words, you paid for BP's lack of attention to safety. It's almost enough to make a strong man cry.

If you haven't noticed that Republicans in the House of Representatives have passed a budget bill that, they say, "cuts the deficit and creates jobs", I'm sure you'll hear much more about it in

Tony's recent accomplishments have been helping to secure funds to finish the construction of the new K-12 school without adding extra costs to the taxpayers. Trust is earned by how you prove yourself and Tony has exceeded this expectation.

It is without reservation that Jim and I fully support the reelection of Tony Hyde for County Commissioner.

Ginger Johns Jim Johns Vernonia

Vote for new faces Preheim and Maygra

To the Editor:

The first president for which I was old enough to vote was John Kennedy back in 1960. The first political election in which I became involved was Robert Kennedy's run for the presidency in 1968. After that election I was paid for my services to help people get elected. I began by working for Wayne Morse, Mark Hatfield, and various other candidates for both state and federal elections.

Now, I am actually a campaign manager and I feel really good about this one even though, once again, I am not getting paid. Tammy Maygra and Brady Preheim are running for positions 3 and 1 against two incumbent commissioners, one of whom has been in office for 16 years and the other who is already a PERS retiree.

Once again we are a grass roots organization as we were when I worked to help repeal the hospital tax and then again to get new people elected to the Columbia Health District board.

This time, however, it appears people are taking even more interest and are actually donating money for this election.

Which, of course, brings me to my moment of contention. By logging on to ORESTAR, I found that on Earl Fisher's last election, he had nearly \$40,000 to spend which averages about \$20 per vote. He actually paid his campaign manager more than \$18,000 to help him win. The same campaign manager is back to help him this time and, with inflation, I cannot begin to imagine what she is being paid this time around. I also found many investors and consultants from out of town and out of state contributed to his campaign. He contributed

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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.

the months to come. The budget designed by GOP budget guru Paul Ryan maintains the Bush tax breaks and reduces tax rates for wealthy corporations and individuals (Tax effects for individuals will be in a future column).

The deficit reduction side of the Ryan budget sort of includes eliminating some tax breaks, but doesn't specify even one tax break for elimination. It does, however, specify cuts to Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security, along with Pell grants, food stamps and other programs that help people who actually need the help.

As Mitt Romney said, "Corporations are people, my friend." Apparently, to be treated like a person, we must become a corporation.

But that won't work either, because there wouldn't be enough non-corporations (formerly known as persons) to pay for corporations' tax and business subsidies. What a dilemma.

Note: Tax data included here is from studies by Citizens for Tax Justice, a 501 (c)(4) public interest research and advocacy organization, and the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, a 501 (c)(3) non-partisan research organization that focuses on federal and state tax policy.