

Letters

To the Editor:

As someone who knows just how hard it is to put out a community newspaper, I wanted to take a moment to express my hope that the residents of Vernonia understand how lucky they have been to have a truly "Independent" publication in their small town for nearly three decades.

Over the past several years, I've gotten to know Clark and Rebecca pretty well. Rebecca seems to be a saint. Clark? Well, Clark can be a bit hard-

headed but the guy is an amazing self-taught journalist and jack-of-all trades.

Like every reporter and editor, he's made mistakes and made them in public. But I have never doubted that he was working for what he believed was the good of a community he so clearly cares about.

Right now, it looks like the future of *The Independent* is in doubt.

If it continues, the paper will need the support of the community. If you're a business,

that means giving Clark a call to talk about advertising. If you're a reader, that means supporting *The Independent's* advertisers and taking time to thank them for their support of their community's paper.

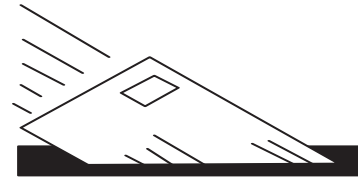
And, if the paper doesn't make it, people should know it's not for a lack of effort on the part of its owners.

As Mark Twain once wrote: "I am not the editor of a newspaper and shall always try to do right and be good so that God will not make me one."

Clark wasn't so lucky, but the residents of Vernonia were. *The Independent* has had an amazing run and regardless of what happens, Clark, Rebecca and Noni should be proud of what they've done.

John Schrag
Publisher

Forest Grove News-Times
Hillsboro Tribune



VHS Honor Roll

The following students were named to the Vernonia High School academic Honor Roll for the 2012-13 first quarter. Grade Point Averages (GPA) are on a scale of 1-4, with 4 equaling a perfect score.

Principal's Honors, 4.00 – Makayla Adams, Marley Bower, Alex Budde, Iryna Budkevych, Emilee Eason, Jamae Eason, Julia Fletcher, Jeffrey Goodman, Samantha Lindauer, Nathanael McCroskey-Izzett, Yuliya Pestova, Deziree Roberts, Jocie Roberts, Ryan

Please see page 8

Obituary

RAYFORD WAYNE ALLEN

Rayford Wayne Allen, 72, died November 24, 2012. A celebration of life was held December 1 at the Nehalem Valley Community Church in Jewell.

Mr. Allen was born July 2, 1941, in Hardin, Oklahoma. As a young adult, he traveled around the Midwest working on the oilfields. He eventually moved to Mist with his family, in 1985, and worked at the mill and as a ranch hand.

He will be remembered for his strong work ethic, quick wit, big stories of bull-riding and his "Hey Darling" that he called all the ladies, and the great love that had for his family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Judy.

Survivors include his sons, Mark Porter and Randy Kotara; daughters, Samantha Francisco and Kerri Lendgren; sisters, Kay McLaughlin and Wanda Johnson, 14 grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

NORMA JEAN CHAMBERS



Norma Jean Chambers, 72, North Plains, died November 13, 2012. Services will be held

in Spring 2013.

Mrs. Chambers was born April 26, 1940, in Thousand Oaks, California, to Oscar and Edith (Wallace) Wiseman. She was four-years-old when the family moved to Gaston, where she was raised. She graduated from Gaston High School in 1958.

She worked for Rogers Organ, ESI and Allen VanZoren Pipe Organ in Hillsboro. She retired in 2002.

Her kind and gentle spirit was expressed in her extensive flower garden and welcoming smile. She was also a talented knitter, keen pinochle player, and an avid bowler who played in several leagues in Vernonia and Hillsboro. More recently, she belonged to the Red Hat Ladies.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Survivors include her husband, two children, Tim McLeod and Teresa Brucken, both of Vernonia; three brothers, Randy Wiseman of Forest Grove, Chuck Wiseman of Gresham, and Leroy Wiseman of Pacific City; two grandchildren, many nieces and nephews.

Remembrances are suggested to the American Cancer Society or Hospice Care of Washington County.

Duyck & VanDeHey Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

LEONARD L. FOSTER



Leonard L. Foster, 83, Forest Grove, died November 8, 2012.

A Celebration of Life service was held November 14 at Camp 18 Restaurant in Elsie.

Mr. Foster was born January 14, 1929, in Astoria, to Curtis and Maggie Foster. He was raised in Jewell and graduated from Jewell High School in 1947.

He enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1951 and was a veteran of the Korean conflict. He was honorably discharged in 1955 as an Assistant Personnel Officer.

He worked in the fishing industry in Alaska, for the Clatsop County Road Department, and as a logger for forty years, finishing his career at Olsted Logging.

He enjoyed hunting and fishing, and his passion was trap-

ping; he was inducted into the Oregon Trapper's Hall of Fame.

He lived in Jewell until 2009, when he moved to Forest Grove.

He was preceded in death by his companion of ten years, Laura Fern, and two brothers, Earl and Ernest Foster.

Survivors include his daughter, Candalee Wrede of Vancouver, Washington; son, Dean Foster of Forest Grove; five grandchildren, one great-granddaughter, and many nieces and nephews.

Remembrances are suggested to the National Stroke Association, 9707 East Easter Lane, Centennial, CO 80112.

Fuiten, Rose & Hoyt Funeral Home in Forest Grove was in charge of the arrangements.

JUDY ANN GLOSTER

Judy Ann Gloster, 73, Banks, died November 19, 2012. Private cremation rites have been held.

Mrs. Gloster was born November 8, 1939, in Kettle River, Minnesota, to John and Vieno (Niemi) Leppioja. She was raised in Kettle River and graduated from Duluth High School in 1957. She worked for many years in electronics assembly, retiring from Hewlett Packard in 1997.



Judy Ann Gloster

She enjoyed gardening, sewing, collecting elephant figurines, and volunteering with the Tualatin Valley ALANO Club.

She was preceded in death by a son, Rodger Wiita; a daughter, Karen Wiita; two brothers, Frank Leppioja, and Harold Leppioja; and two sisters, Mary Juntunen and Elma Sarvela.

Survivors include three sons, Ronald Wiita of Duluth, Minn., Dale Wiita of Banks, and John Wiita of Portland; one daughter, Kim Leach of Vernonia; four sisters, Faye Peer of Missouri, Marion Johnson of Duluth, Minn., Helen Thompson of Wisconsin, and Pearl Houle of Minn.; grandchildren;

Please see page 7



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