

O P I N I O N

Editorial...

Henderson for County Commissioner

From the national level down to the local level, the public's faith in its government institutions is severely abraded. Perhaps the most important duty of a public official these days is to act in a manner that shores up that wavering faith.

For that reason, voters should elect Phil Henderson Deschutes County Commissioner.

Henderson's background and experience offer an opportunity for the commissioners to connect more fully with the private sector, and his commitment to extensive and consistent public outreach bodes well for ensuring that all voices are truly heard, not just those who have an immediate interest in a particular issue.

Henderson has committed to a regular open house/open meeting/coffees in the various communities and areas of Deschutes County on a regular basis, and that is an important step in connecting the citizens with their county government.

Incumbent Commissioner Alan Unger has done some valuable work for Sisters. The

forest health initiative in which he is active has had benefits that are visible on the ground here. But in a couple of instances in Sisters Country, his actions have let constituents down.

His offer of mediation on the controversial issue of a paved trail quickly morphed into advocacy for one side. In acquiescing to the removal of a discussion of airport-related issues from the commissioners' agenda, Unger missed the opportunity to fully understand an issue that is of great concern to his constituents.

For the majority of Sisters Country residents, who live outside municipal boundaries, the county commissioners are their local government representatives. It is critical, especially now, that a commissioner act as the representative of *all* his constituents, not just of those who have his ear.

Phil Henderson is offering residents of Sisters Country a "fresh look." We should take him up on it.

Jim Cornelius
News Editor

Your vote is hallowed ground

By John Baldwin
Guest Columnist

In just over one week, the legal residents of this nation will send a message to their governing members and to the world as to their collective level of satisfaction with the status quo.

If unfringed, that message will likely spell the beginning of the end for limitless congressional terms, complicated personal taxation, and illegal immigration. If allowed to run its true course, that message will return the judicial and congressional branches of the United States toward a pro-America, pro-Constitutional heading.

Such should have always been the case.

And such is what the nation needs, for as Ronald Reagan famously said, "...A nation without borders is no nation." I urge each of you, Republican, Independent, or Democrat to realize the rare power that you hold in your hand, to recognize the priceless gift placed long ago in your possession of the fundamental right to cast a vote, placed there by thousands who fought for you, for your freedom to both live and to vote. Many who thus fought, fought and died that you might live free.

It's fair to say that they would expect the beneficiaries of their sacrifice — each and every one of us — to greatly esteem our present liberty, and to contemplate with respect and logic the outcome of the vote we cast. We do them no service by thinking only in present perspectives as we vote this week. We ought consider the America in which we, by virtue of our vote, will have a direct role in making and passing on to subsequent generations.

Now is the time to speak out, and as a nation, to be heard resoundingly!

A candidate calls to us, one who's love of power and whose acceptance of corruption over rule of law in America is only too well known. I implore you, fellow American — look

ahead! By the strength of your ability to reason, see the corrupt reality in Washington for the snakepit that it is; do not cast your vote into that abyss. Instead, recognize your own liberty as beyond any price. Recognize the hardship, the moral courage, the sacrifice, and the discipline at all levels that such a nation as America required of her builders as the foundation on which we now stand.

“As Americans, every generation has for that freedom its debt to pay, the price being eternal vigilance over our both our borders and our Constitution. As such, our liberty so rare in the world, is not immune to enemies either foreign or domestic.”

Why would we now, as that nation, we as that party, or we as individual citizens ever willingly vote to dispossess ourselves of such hallowed ground? Do we somehow not see the deceit playing out before us? America is the sovereign property of only we *Americans*. It is not the possession of a foreign ideology nor beholden to the outside world. Our culture is not chattel, neither our freedom some mere commodity. As Americans, every generation has for that freedom its debt to pay, the price being eternal vigilance over both our borders and our Constitution. As such, our liberty so rare in the world, is not immune to enemies either foreign or domestic.

“When ...[in the end] the freedom they wished for was freedom from responsibility ... then Athens ceased to be free.” — Sir Edward Gibbon, 1780

Letters to the Editor...

The Nugget welcomes contributions from its readers, which must include the writer's name, address and phone number. Letters to the Editor is an open forum for the community and contains unsolicited opinions not necessarily shared by the Editor. The Nugget reserves the right to edit, omit, respond or ask for a response to letters submitted to the Editor. Letters should be no longer than 300 words. Unpublished items are not acknowledged or returned. The deadline for all letters is noon Monday.

To the Editor:

I, for one, will be so glad when the Cyrus family gets their hemp crop in and they can turn off their fans and helicopters.

I'm exhausted.
Judy Bull

country together in a more mutual and positive direction.

We will get through this election regardless of the many distractions or the outcome, and thanks to our freedoms will live to vote another day.

Greg Vandehey

To the Editor:

Thanks to Craig Rullman for his thoughtful and informative response to the recent "Looking Outward" column "Just Look at the Facts."

In a country that has become so bitterly divided politically, I think we are all simply waiting for honest and balanced political candidates male or female to help bring this

To the Editor:

It was quite revealing when Commissioner Alan Unger said in last week's *Nugget* that, "I think we do need a trail between Sisters and Black Butte Ranch."

Really? I think that even folks that wanted

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Sisters Weather Forecast

Courtesy of the National Weather Service, Pendleton, Oregon

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Mostly sunny 60/39	Mostly sunny 57/37	Mostly sunny 60/39	Chance rain 57/37	Chance showers 51/34	Mostly cloudy 53/na

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