

Readers Lend Their Voices... *continued from page 13*

campaign funds as a reward. Not getting my vote!

Fred Creps
Rainier, OR

Judge Jean Marwick responds:

When a person is separated from their property, they have a right to act, within the law to reclaim it. Mr. Creps' letter does not hold together logically, and suggests that is OK for someone to remove another person's signs – it is not OK.

If a member of this community took these signs, for political reasons, or to build bird houses, it is still wrong to take what is not yours. They should be returned to the rightful owner. All of these signs were in legal locations and were not 'left up' after the election. This is merely an effort to confuse the issue, instead of doing what is right in this instance.

My offer stands. If anyone knows what happened to my campaign signs, please respond. We are a nation of laws, where everyone should act with care concerning each other's property and rights to speech.

My campaign and my life have been about seeking justice under the rule of law. I ask that we as a community keep fairness and justice in mind, as we choose who will be our public servants. I ask for your vote to remain your Judge.

To the Editor,

A gravel tax for jail operations?

The Scappoose bay pit ships 6800 tons of gravel daily by barge to Portland seven days a week. (6800 tons x \$.65 depletion fee = \$4420.00 daily)x 365 = \$1.61Million. Add other pits/methods and the amount climbs.

Gravel marketing is a function of ease of mining, quality of product, and distance. Columbia County's biggest market? Portland. No one else has our advantages.

This depletion tax will reduce competitive radius of trucking into Portland by 2.4 miles for single dump loads. It will raise the cost by \$8.45/load. Every pit will pay equally so no one will lose.

I'm suggesting to regional counties statewide they implement their own fee for jail operations as most are losing their timber tax revenues. This will completely level the playing field.

It's not uncommon for leased mines on federal land to be charged 10% by the BLM. That would be \$1.20.

Wayne Mayo
Scappoose, OR

To the Editor,

Please read my story before you vote for the Judge.

After my daughter ran away because I would not permit her to get a tattoo, her father obtained an immediate danger order. I objected and the matter was heard in front of Judge Martwick who was disorganized, appeared flustered and looked to my ex-husband's attorney for direction. Martwick announced that she was going to speak to our 14 year old daughter privately in her office. Martwick did not seek my permission or let my daughter tell her story in court.

This is a clear violation of the judicial code which expressly forbids a communication between a judge and fewer than all parties or their lawyers, concerning a pending or impending matter. Martwick violated my rights by making a decision based on a private conversation without giving me an opportunity to respond or ask questions.

I am dumbfounded at her complete lack of knowledge of the law. When Martwick announced her decision to remove our daughter from my home, I asked, "based on what"? Martwick responded, "her choice... Your daughter gave me everything I needed to make this decision".

A 14 year old lacks the intelligence, competence or right to decide where she should live. The proper standard for issuing an immediate danger is that the child was in danger at the time the order was issued, not true here the child was with dad, not me. Martwick said, "As soon as that custody order gets signed, this thing (immediate danger order) gets dismissed."

Martwick coerced me, in open court, to give up custody of all my children. We were not in court for custody. Martwick did not follow the law. As a result, my daughter has failed academically and socially while with her father. I have filed a complaint.

Toni Swaim
Kent, WA

Judge Jean Martwick responds: I will not comment on the specifics of Ms. Swaim's case; however, I considered the evidence that was presented and followed the law. I stand by my decision. On July 22, 2014, I received notice that Ms. Swaim filed a complaint. I responded. On August 15, the complaint was dismissed.

To the Editor,

I have been lucky enough to be a friend of Cathleen Callahan's for many years. I am so proud of the path she has

taken these past years from being City Prosecutor in Clatskanie to opening her own law office in old town Saint Helens

Now she is taking the next logical step by expressing her passion for the justice system as a Circuit Court Judge. She is exactly the kind of person we can all trust to be fair, not only in her interpretation of the law, but fair to all parties by providing a forum to present each side of an argument. I trust that she will make authoritative decisions that have the potential to shape people's futures for the better.

I know that Cathleen does a boatload of volunteer hours with Safe, Columbia County Legal Aid, Chamber of Commerce, Rotary, Special Olympics, CASA, and the Columbia Humane Society. Through all of those volunteer hours, she has dealt with all walks of life, from special needs kids to people struggling with addictions of every kind. I feel that this interaction gives her a unique perspective on our community, its problems, its accomplishments, and its potential. It also gives her a unique perspective on the problems individuals struggle with in their daily lives.

She will bring all of the knowledge, compassion, understanding, and experience she has gained over the years to the bench.

Keeley Weber Jones
Warren, OR

To the Editor,

The ideas in the letter to the Editor from Fred Crep castigating Judge Martwick is interesting in the concepts that it has within it, which I find to be as follows:

1. If you are a public servant and are paid for it you should not be allowed to post a reward for theft, and
2. The writer does not want to waste time or money on prosecuting someone who is clearly in violation of the law, or in other words, there are no holds barred in election theft of signs, and trespass to take them.
3. The rights of the public to have freedom of speech putting up signs on private property in favor of a candidate should be ignored and trampled upon in this society.

A day or two after the election, signs for the candidate were stolen without our permission from our property on U.S. 30. These were stolen from our property before they had to be removed, if they had to be removed at all. This amounts to a trespass against us.

My answer is, anyone who has information leading to the prosecution of someone who took signs from our

property on behalf of the Honorable Judge Jean Martwick on or about May 21-25, 2014, we will pay a reward of \$1,000 for such information.

I have a question for Mr. Fred Crep. Was his lawyer in 2004 or 2005 the Judge's opponent? To answer this question go down to the Courthouse and look up his name and you will be able to see who his lawyer has been.

Agnes Marie Petersen
St. Helens, OR

To the Editor,

A short story of a young man who went from a spun out mess, to nothing short of a success from the help of an admirable defense attorney of the Columbia County community, Ms. Jean Marie Martwick.

My name is Mike Popham, I'm a local Scappoose man, also known for being musically talented and hard working. I once struggled with an addiction to methamphetamine. It came to a point in my addiction, after 11 long battling years of use, where everyone in my surroundings were turning their backs and closing their doors to rightfully protect their best interests from the relentlessly destructive lifestyle that my addiction was creating.

In April of 2011, Ms. Jean Marie Martwick opened a door for me to receive a 2nd chance at life and initiate the process of righting my wrongful behavior and paying my debts back to society for all wrecks that I caused. I successfully accomplished my goals of ultimate redemption through 15 months of exemplary and vigorous dedication to the Drug Court Administration and most importantly the guidance and opportunity that was given to me by Ms. Martwick.

My life is much different today in so many positive ways, like having a stable income, owning my own home, and being in the good graces of my family, friends, as well as all the other surroundings in my community. In December, I'm expecting a son!

There isn't one day that goes by where I don't feel an overwhelmingly great sense of gratitude towards Jean Martwick for convincing the Drug Court Administration that I was worth giving a second chance at life. Thanks again Jean, you will always be remembered and very much appreciated!

Mike Popham
Scappoose, OR

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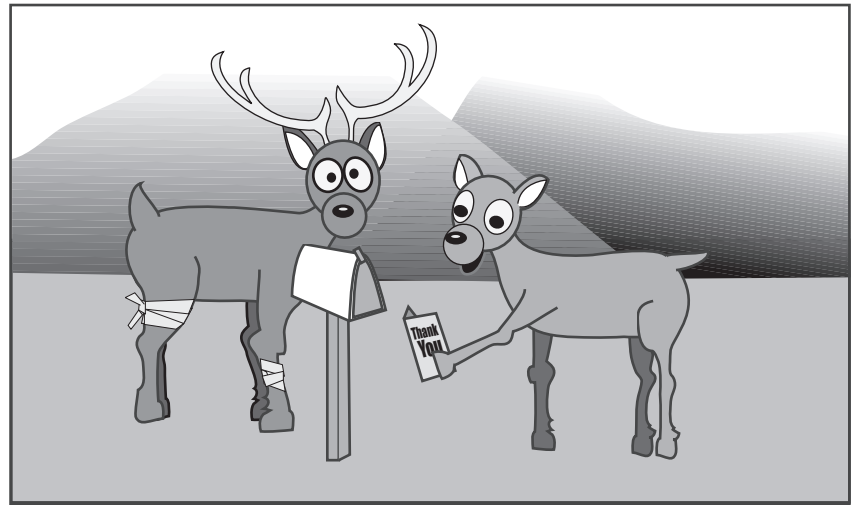
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