

Readers Lend Their Voices...

To the Editor,

Have you been outside lately - when the clouds have parted and the sun shines for a few brief minutes? If so, have you taken a deep breath and inhaled the faint hint of spring, new life and vitality? Of course this is a metaphor, and I will use it in this letter.

Let me remind you of a few instances of new life and vitality showing up in Columbia County. Last May we elected two new Port of St. Helens Commissioners who are already making an improvement in the transparency at the Port.

Earlier last summer the legalization of marijuana was passed by the voters. I am not saying I agree or disagree with this - but when the City of St. Helens and the County did not want to accept the decision of the majority of the voters, a younger generation of citizens came out with an impressive demonstration to voice their indignation at the majority vote not being accepted . . . another breath of fresh air.

We just heard last week that Global Partners is not going to continue to ship Bakken crude oil through Columbia County. This appears to have occurred only because it has ceased to be profitable to Global and not because of any interjection by the Board of Commissioners or the Port of St. Helens. I doubt Global Partners will sink millions more into Port Westward to reopen this failed venture.

So, go outside and take another deep breath. At least you do not have to worry about crude oil explosions. You just have to worry about paying

for the approximately \$50-72 million already sunk into Port Westward by most of your current elected leaders.

Another particularly exciting breath of fresh air is a man from Scappoose named Alex Tardif. I had the pleasure of meeting him at one of the meetings to help kick off his campaign to win position 3 on the Columbia County Board of Commissioners.

Every person at the meeting was profoundly impressed with Mr. Tardif - his ideas to bring Columbia County out of the rut in which it has been ensconced for twenty years - his knowledge of what is right and what is wrong with our county - and, most importantly, how he can help to fix it. All of us at this meeting signed on to help Tardif in his run against Tony Hyde, the incumbent commissioner.

Hyde has been in office far too long for one person to hold an elected position. If he could not complete his goals in 4 years or even 8 years, then he needs to move on to something else. Twenty years in office is unacceptable.

Take a deep, deep breath of fresh air and make a point of listening to Board of Commissioners candidate Alex Tardif. He will change your view and hope of what an elected official can and should be.

Nancy Whitney
St. Helens

HOW TO SEND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Vernonia's Voice welcomes and requests your thoughts, opinions and ideas. Please include your name, address and phone number, limit your letters to 300 words or less. Vernonia's Voice reserves the right to edit, omit, respond or ask for a response to letters submitted. We will print letters space permitting. Deadline is the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month. Email: scott@vernoniasvoice.com or mail to: Letters, PO Box 55, Vernonia, OR 97064.

Columbia Humane Society Featured Pet



We are still looking for a retirement home for Roxy. We think she is about 7 years old. She may have cancer but it doesn't slow her down. She needs a quiet home with no kids/cats and probably no female dogs. She loves to go on walks and play frisbee. If you think you can give this dog a home to retire in, call us. Roxy's adoption will be considered a true rescue as there are no long term solutions for her cancer.

Web: www.columbiahumane.org
2084 Oregon Street
St. Helens, OR 97051

Phone: 503-397-4353
Email: animalwelfare@columbiahumane.org

NOTICE OF ELECTION OF DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS

Notice is hereby given that on Tuesday, May 17, 2016, an election will be conducted by mail for the purpose of electing seven board members to fill the following positions on the board of the

COLUMBIA COUNTY RIDER TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT

Positions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7 (all at large from the district): all areas within the boundaries of Columbia County excepting City of Clatskanie and City of Prescott

Each candidate for an office listed above must file a declaration of candidacy (SEL190) accompanied by a filing fee of \$10.00 or

accompanied by a petition for nomination (SEL121) signed by at least 25 registered voters residing in the election district for the office, with the Elections Department of Columbia County beginning on January 28, 2016 and no later than 5:00 p.m. on March 8, 2016.

Filing forms are available on-line at the Secretary of State, Elections Division <http://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Pages/electionforms.aspx>. The forms are also available on the county website <http://www.co.columbia.or.us/departments/elections-department/candidate-information> or at Columbia County Elections Department, 230 Strand St., St. Helens, OR.

Food for Fines Fundraiser

Vernonia Public Library
February 1-15, 2016

Bring non-perishable food or personal care items to the library and
*\$1 in fines**
will be forgiven from your account in exchange for each item.

A few suggestions:

- ★ canned fruit & vegetables
- ★ cereals ★ rice ★ beans
- ★ protein rich foods
- ★ personal care items
- ★ baby diapers or wipes
- ★ toilet paper

*All donations,
including money paid on fines
during this time period,
will be donated to Vernonia Cares.*

**Fees for Lost or Damaged items can not
be waived in exchange for donations.*

Vernonia Public Library • 701 Weed Avenue • 503-429-1818



The Mist-Birkenfeld RFPD Board of Directors will meet Tuesday, February 16, 2016 at 7:00 pm at the Main Station, 12525 HWY 202, Mist, OR. Agenda items include but are not limited to usual order of business, citizen input, Fire Chief's report, financial reports and any other business needing to be discussed.

William DeJager
-Board President

Friends of the Vernonia Public Library

Membership Dues:

Family: \$10.00 Individual: \$5.00
Minimum: \$1.00 plus 2 hours minimum of work in the library

Make checks payable to: Friends of the Vernonia Public Library
Mailing Address: 701 Weed Avenue, Vernonia, OR 97064

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Phone

Date

Amount Enclosed \$

I am interested in helping with the following committees (optional):
Please Circle • Membership • Endowments • Book Sales • Publicity & Public Relations • Fund Raising • Library Services • Finance-Budget-Legal Matters

291
a
STREET
CALL KIM

Happy
Grooming
Dog Salon
429-0576

LOVABLE SERVICE AT
a REASONABLE PRICE

- BATHING
- HAIRCUTS
- NAIL CLIPPING
- NAIL POLISHING
- SPECIALTY SHAMPOOS