

# County Voters Have Decisions

*continued from front page*

permanent hospital tax in 2010. He has worked with the cities of St. Helens and Scappoose on urban renewal and economic development. He has served as a Community Ambassador for The Ford Family Foundation and has been involved with CASA. He is the owner of Preheim Business Center (formerly Preheim Computers) for the last 18 years. He previously ran for County Clerk in 2014.

Margaret Magruder of Clatskanie has served as a member of the Columbia County Budget Committee for almost 20 years and as Coordinator of the Lower Columbia River Watershed Council since 1996. She was a member of the Oregon Board of Agriculture for eight years. Magruder currently is a member of the Oregon Sheep Commission and the Oregon State Weed Board. She has been a Board member of the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership for over 15 years. She is a member of the Clatskanie - Quincy Citizens Planning Advisory Committee (CPAC). Magruder formerly served on the Columbia School District 5J Board of Directors.

Wayne Mayo has served as a Park Commissioner in St. Helens and as a Planning Commissioner in Scappoose. He has worked as a lumber broker and a property manager and has been a building contractor since 1980. He has raised seven children and has 11 grandchildren. Mayo previously ran for County Commissioner in 2014.

The race for Position 3 is a clash of differences.

Tardiff, a tax professional running for his first elected office, currently serves on the Scappoose School Board Budget Committee. He is positioning himself as a "new voice" for Columbia County who says his experience auditing local, county and state governments around the country gives him the skills and knowledge to understand budgets, finances, state regulations and tax laws.

Hyde, of Vernonia, has been a Columbia County Commissioner for twenty years and points to economic and business growth during his time in office. He chairs economic development steering committees at both the state and federal level and lists his involvement in the development of the Crown-Zellerbach Trail as one of his accomplishments while in office.

# The Differences Between Candidates

By Scott Laird

Alex Tardiff is opposing Tony Hyde in the race for County Commissioner, Position 3. The difference between the two candidates is pretty clear.

Tardiff is young, new to running for elected office, and is running on a platform of change. He says Columbia County has been mismanaged in the past and needs more accountability and transparency.

Hyde has been a County Commissioner for twenty years after previously serving as a Vernonia City Councilor and then the Mayor. This may be Hyde's last run at elected office. He says Columbia County is on the brink of great things and this is not the time to change leadership.

Tardiff recently met with citizens in Vernonia on Saturday, April 9 over coffee at the Blue House Cafe. Following that meeting, I met with Tony Hyde for coffee at the Black Iron Grill. The following are some of issues both candidates discussed.

### Why they are running

Tardiff opened his comments by talking about growing up in Columbia County and seeing less and less access for residents to natural places, along with a lack of investment in the county park system. "If we're going to take away our natural settings and our natural playgrounds then we need to develop our parks and rec system and make it something we can all be proud of," said Tardiff.

Tardiff points to his background in accounting, financial analytics, and tax regulations as a way for him to positively impact government at the county level. "I feel like I have the skills necessary to step in to the struggles that Columbia County is facing and provide viable solutions needed to move us forward," said Tardiff.

Hyde points to his role in helping bring the newly announced Oregon Manufacturing Innovation District (OMID) to Scappoose, as just one of many economic development projects he has helped shepherd into Columbia County. The OMID will partner with Portland Community College to develop an apprenticeship training and manufacturing center in Columbia County. "This will be transformational, not only for Columbia County, but for the state of Oregon," said Hyde. "There is no other site like it in the entire United States. I've had a big role in that and

there is a lot left to do. It's going to take steady and knowledgeable leadership to make that happen."

While Hyde points to numerous business projects he's helped develop, he also admits he's concerned that 75 percent of Columbia County workers commute out of the county. "That is devastating to our economy and the social infrastructure of our communities," said Hyde. "That has been, and always will be, my main focus."

### Port Westward development

"I think Port Westward has been a huge thorn in our side," said Tardiff, discussing the large industrial site on the Columbia River. "We've invested millions and millions of dollars out there, and when you really start looking at it and the trail of where it goes and how that money is being spent, you start to question why all of us in the county are paying for this multi-million dollar bust? Why aren't our communities getting that money? Vernonia could use that money to help get it back on its feet. We need to fix that and stop wasting our money."

When asked about the waste of resources trying to bring industry and jobs to Port Westward, Hyde sees it differently and responded that the County used the tools available, including the creation of an urban renewal district, to develop what he described as one of the most beautiful industrial sites left in the state of Oregon, with a deep water port. Hyde said the County invested in the infrastructure and has since captured taxes from new industry to pay off that

*continued on page 10*

VERNONIA'S  
**voice**

reflecting the spirit of our community  
**Publisher and Managing Editor**  
**Scott Laird**  
**503-367-0098**  
**scott@vernoniasvoice.com**

### Contributors

Chip Bubl  
Tobie Finzel  
Karen Kain  
Stacey Lynn  
Aaron Miller  
Karen Miller  
Shannon Romtvedt  
Robert Schattschneider

### Photography

Karen Kain  
Scott Laird

**Want to advertise?**  
**Have an article?**

**Contact: scott@vernoniasvoice.com**

One year subscriptions  
(24 issues) \$35

Vernonia's Voice is published  
on the 1st and 3rd Thursday  
of each month.

**Vernonia's Voice, LLC**  
**PO Box 55**  
**Vernonia, OR 97064**  
**503-367-0098**



[www.VernoniasVoice.com](http://www.VernoniasVoice.com)



**FULL dish SPORTS PACKAGE!**

**Happy Hour Mon-Fri 4-7**

**LIVE MUSIC**

**Sat, May 14th**  
Triple Edge Band  
**Sat, June 11th**  
Triple Edge Band

- Specialty hamburgers
- 8 Draft beers & mixed drinks
- 5 Craft beers on tap
- Pool tables & satellite TV
- Free Wi-fi
- Beer & Kegs to go

**"BIKER FRIENDLY"**

**Sun - Thurs 11 AM - Midnight • Fri - Sat 11 AM - 2:30 AM**  
**733 Bridge St, Vernonia • 503-429-9999**



**Friends of Stub Stewart State Park and Banks-Vernonia State Trail Monthly Meeting**

**April 28, 2016**  
**7-9 pm**

The Dairy Creek West Meeting Hall  
Stub Stewart State Park  
30380 NW Hwy 47  
Buxton, OR 97109

Interested public welcome  
Steve Kruger, Park Ranger  
503-324-0606 x223

# Cedar Side Inn



**Karaoke**

Every 2nd & Last Friday

**Taco Tuesday**

from opening until 9pm  
3 hardshell or 1 softshell \$4.25

**Ladies' Night**

every Thursday 6pm-close

• Free Pool • Free WiFi • Specialty Pizzas

Check our Facebook page for daily specials and upcoming events  
756 Bridge Street, Vernonia 503-429-5841

# Upper Nehalem Watershed Council Meeting

**6:30 pm on Thursday**  
**April 28, 2016**

at the UNWC office  
1201 Texas Ave. Suite A  
Entrance is around the back  
of the School District building

For more info call  
(503) 429-0869  
or email  
maggie@nehalem.org

