

County Commissioners Election *continued from page 5*

aged by the Facilities Manager, a recent change, and said Parks and Facilities crews are now working together in partnership on projects. He said the County has a strategic harvest plan for timber they own, which help fund parks, in addition to fees and grants. "Our commitment to Parks is strong." He said last year the County made upgrades to the Coon Island Marine Park near Scappoose in the Multnomah Channel and at Airport Park in Scappoose. They recently acquired property from the State at Dibblee Point near Rainier, which will expand access to Columbia River frontage, and funding is slowly being directed to develop facilities; grants will be applied for to develop handicapped access there. He added that the County

has added an online reservation system. He said the County is finalizing a complex deal with the City of Scappoose for the development of Chapman Landing at one end of the CZ Trail and are still trying to find a way to finish the trail into Vernonia, including the crossing of the Nehalem River and seeking permanent easements with some property owners. "It's getting tons of use," said Heimuller about the recently opened trail. He said the County has created a CZ Trail Advisory Committee to help give input on the final development.

Heimuller said the County needs a member for their Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee from Vernonia, so that Vernonia's needs get heard at the County level. He agreed Vernonia is

not receiving the service it needs or deserves from C.C. Rider, but with HB 2017 funding coming, and with proper representation, the County may be able to expand or improve services for Vernonia. "We need to be able to get people, and especially students, to the Hillsboro area, and we'll need to get students to OMIC when it opens. It's a big conversation we'll be having, and we need representation from Vernonia to be part of that conversation."

Heimuller closed by discussing the start of a Strategic Planning Process the County has implemented using a variety of hand-picked employees who have been meeting regularly as a Communications Team. "Our employees are completely engaged and I'm really proud of this process. We're going to end up with a Strategic Plan that doesn't cost us anything and that is homegrown."

Don Campbell – Campbell is married, has a family, and lives outside Rainier. He says he's for protecting Columbia County's environment. He says he's pro gun and wants people to be able to hunt, go out target shooting, and to carry a firearm for protection. He says he is running for County Commissioner after having personal disputes with the County over land use and property rights issues. "I want to be on the Board of Commissioners so I can try to make land use more efficient."

Campbell says he wants to see the citizens of the County come back together, clean up issues at the Courthouse, and make things better for everyone.

Campbell says he has concerns about development at Port Westward and the lack of environmental impact studies. He's also concerned about how much money the County is spending to fight for the re-zoning efforts on the adjacent agricultural lands. "\$250,000 could be better utilized. We should only

be rezoning something when it is ready to be used, when you have a specific purpose for it and have all the answers. That way you can propose the correct questions for what's coming. They're wasting tax payer dollars." Campbell adds that he's concerned that the County has offered tax breaks and incentives based on promises of jobs that have not materialized. He's also concerned that development at Port Westward could create a drain on local public safety resources.

Campbell says he would like to see the County develop job training programs for citizens, and especially for youth, to help them develop marketable job skills. He said he would like to see more vocational programs in schools. He also thinks land use regulations block job creation.

Campbell says he would like to see the County open a satellite office near Vernonia so people don't have to drive to St. Helens for permitting and other County business. "Vernonia is isolated from everything and the County has never reached out or tried to bring anything closer to you guys. They're not investing in Vernonia. I want to try and bring the whole County closer together, not so much geographically, but by being able to work together."

"Our County roads are complete garbage," said Campbell when asked about road conditions. "Everybody blames it on funding, but we found the money to build a jail when we needed it. The drive from the County hasn't been there and it needs to be there. We need all of our roads fixed." Campbell said the County is unprepared for a major disaster and the first failure of Columbia County is the quality and condition of infrastructure and their ability to safely evacuate and get rescue equipment where it's needed. "The citizens are entitled to upgraded roads that are safe. It's something that has needed to be addressed for a long time."

Campbell says he would like to see the Sheriff's Office operate manned satellite facilities in more remote parts of the County to help lower response times.

He said the citizens of Columbia County need the C.C. Rider public transit system. "It's a necessity that can't be squandered, or diminished and taken away."

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