

Incumbent Skoko joins race

Stan Skoko this week ended speculation of his future political intentions and entered the increasingly



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crowded race for his seat on the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners.

Democratic candidates include Skoko, Suzanne Van Orman, Alan Brickley and George Thomas.

Republican entries in the race are Alan Samarin, 32, a probation officer for the Clackamas County Department of Corrections; and Terry van Der Mark, 31, from Johnson City, and Gilbert E. "Gil" Rodgers of Oregon City, a retired chief tax deputy for the Clackamas County Sheriff's office.

Skoko is seeking his fifth term as a county commissioner. He served two terms, 1949 through 1956, was returned to the board in 1964 and served through 1968. He was elected again in 1975 for the current term ending next January.

"I am convinced that Clackamas County is blessed with more natural wonders, including outdoor beauty in mountains, woods and streams, and farming and industrial economic

possibility than any other county in the nation."

Skoko said he is seeking re-election to further enhance the livability of Clackamas County and said he will continue to strive for development of the county, with emphasis on economy in government.

It was Skoko's motion which withdrew the rural zoning project until the Clackamas County Comprehensive Plan is amended to comply with that project.

He also said he's against Mt. Hood Meadows plan for a 450-unit development on the north side of Mt. Hood near Parkdale, calling it 10-15 years premature.

The longtime Clackamas County resident favors developing land already committed to recreational use instead of "leapfrogging" development to the Hood River side of the mountain where much of the land is committed to orchards and forest use.

Credit set for working parents

Working parents who earned less than \$8,000 last year may again be eligible for payments of up to \$400 from the government by filing a federal income tax return.

To qualify for earned income credit, persons must have had an adjusted gross income or earned income of less than \$8,000 in 1977 and must have maintained a household for the entire year for their child who was either under 19, a full-time student or a disabled dependent.

For eligible persons the credit is 10 percent of the first \$4,000 of earned income, with a maximum credit of \$400. The credit is reduced by one dollar for each \$10 of earned or adjusted gross income over \$4,000, phasing out completely at the \$8,000 income mark.

The credit can be used to reduce income taxes owed or can be received as a refund where there is no tax liability.

Eligible persons can

quality for earned income credit even though they may have paid in no income tax during the year, but the IRS stressed that they must file a 1977 federal income tax return to get it. The IRS will automatically compute the credit for taxpayers. Eligible Form 1040 filers must write "EIC" and the name of the qualifying child on line 57 of the return. Taxpayers who file Form 1040A need only write the name of the qualifying child on line 10.

Blueberries do double duty

Blueberries can do double duty in the home landscape as producers of edible berries and as ornamental shrubs, according to OSU extension agent Gray Thompson.

"Blueberries have attractive flowers in the spring and then finish the season with a spectacular display of autumn foliage," he said.

Blueberries will do well in nearly any part of the yard where a four to five foot ornamental shrub is desired. They prefer well-drained acid soil with good organic content.

Because the root system is shallow, blueberries are sensitive to drought and do best when mulched to control weeds and conserve water,

Thompson noted.

Thompson added, do not fertilize at planting time but apply light amounts of fertilizer each spring following planting to maintain one to two feet of new growth annually.

Three or four blueberry plants will probably produce all the blueberries most families desire, he said.

Well drained soil needed for healthy plants

From a landscaper's point of view, a well-drained soil is one in which gravity is able to move water down through the soil and make room for air needed by plant roots.

"People tend to think hillsides are well-drained, but they could be wrong," says Gray Thompson, an

Oregon State University Extension agent for Clackamas County.

Most hillsides have a restricting layer anywhere from one to five feet deep, he said. Water will sink through the soil until it hits this layer and then move down the slope on top of it. At places

where the slope flattens, or the soil texture changes, the water may rise to the surface and form a spring.

"Flatlands may also have restrictive layers ranging from one to three feet deep which prevent water from moving downward," Thompson noted. "During

periods of heavy rain, the water table can rise to the surface."

To check the drainage capability of a home landscape, Thompson suggests digging a two-foot hole in an area where plantings are contemplated. Watch the water level rise during rainy

periods. When the rain stops, the water should drain out of the hole.

"If it doesn't drain in a reasonable time, you should beware of planting deep-rooted shrubs and trees," Thompson said.

Another solution is to install raised beds or mounds to keep the landscape plants above the water table.

Fraternity starts

An alumni field chapter of a national honorary fraternity for community college students has been started in Oregon.

Oregon is the second state in the nation to be granted a charter for field chapter of Phi Theta Kappa. Michael Stuart of the Mt. Hood Community College staff is the alumni association sponsor.

Former members of Rho Theta Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa at Mt. Hood Community College who want more information should contact Carolyn Mehan at 666-8688 or Glen Kline, 760-5372.



Not so busy

Martin supported

Former State Rep. Paul Walden, R-Hood River, today announced his endorsement of Rep. Roge Martin for the Republican nomination for governor.

Martin, a Clackamas County legislator, has served as House Republican leader since 1975.

Mudders plan day

The Mt. Hood Mudders will hold their second annual play day—"Mud Magic"—on Saturday, May 6, at Mt. View Cycle Park, Sandy.

Gates will open Saturday at 7 a.m. for technical inspection. Drivers' meeting will be at 8 a.m. with racing at 9 a.m.

Trophies will be awarded for first, second and third place for men and women. There will be a concession stand and limited camping.

A portion of the proceeds from the event will be donated to the Sandy Senior Center.

For further information, phone 668-5326.

Brand files for expansion

A request for non-conforming use permit by Earl Brand will be considered by the Clackamas County Hearings officer on Thursday, March 16.

Brand has filed to add a second floor to an existing 5000 square foot building and expand the existing commercial and manufacturing uses onto the second floor. Property is located on the south side of Southeast Kelso Road approximately 500 feet east of its intersection with Highway 26 in the Sandy area.

The hearing is slated for 7 p.m. in courtroom 4 of the county courthouse in Oregon City.

LIGHT VOTER TURNOUT was the norm Tuesday during the Mt. Hood Community College levy election. Manning the polls at Sandy City Hall were Carolyn Frasier, Marion H. James

and Lara E. Kitchen. The operating levy was narrowly defeated by voters. Only 805 Clackamas County voters went to the polls.

(Post photo)

Grand Opening

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Rain checks will be given on out-of-stock items advertised in this sale.