

GREEN VS. HANDY BIG BUCKS RACE

Development interests are battling environmental donors in a high-priced battle for the north Lane County Commissioner seat.

Rob Handy has reported raising \$83,265, mostly from environmental supporters, in his bid to defeat incumbent Bobby Green, who's backed by gravel miners and development interests and has raised \$67,450.

Green holds a key swing seat on the County Commission between conservative development and progressive environmental interests.

Sand, gravel, construction and land speculation companies which stand to make big profits from county contracts, mining permits and urban sprawl gave Green big contributions. Avon Lee Babb, president of Delta Sand and Gravel gave \$10,000. Wildish Sand and Gravel gave \$3,000. Verne Egge of Egge Sand and Gravel gave \$1,000.

Other big contributions to Green include a \$5,000 contribution from the county public works union, \$3,000 from the state home builders PAC and \$2,000 from Murphy Plywood.

Green's biggest chunk of money is a \$25,000 loan from Jon Jaqua, an heir to Nike millions and a former professional football player. Jaqua made a similar big loan to Green in a previous campaign.

Wealthy residents who have given thousands of dollars to campaigns for President George Bush and other Republicans in the past are also big Green backers. Monaco RV CEO Kay Toolson gave Green \$1,000 as did Charles Warren of Excalibur Cutlery. Republican Jack Roberts, the head of the local Metro Partnership, gave Green \$500.

Handy's biggest donor is Deborah Noble, owner of West Wind Forest Products and a frequent backer of environmental causes. Noble gave Handy \$5,903 in cash and a \$5,660 loan. Other big contributors include \$10,000 from home builder Carlos Barrera and \$10,000 from local doctors Byrke and Klarissa Beller.

The Oregon League of Conservation Voters supported Handy with an in-kind contribution worth \$3,248.

Other major Handy donors include: Elmer Handy of Tucson, \$3,000, and \$1,000 contributions from environmentalist and Nike heir Tom Bowerman, Sundance proprietor Gavin McComas, Ken Horowitz of Georgia and the Eugene firefighters union.

—Alan Pittman

SENATE RACE EYES NOVEMBER

Democrats are hailing 2008 as the year to get the Republicans out of the White House and out of Congress, and pundits say that with approval ratings below 50 percent, Sen. Gordon Smith's Senate seat is one of the most vulnerable.

Smith's only challenger in the Republican primary appears to be a nonstarter. Gordon Leitch is a retired ophthalmologist whose anti-tax campaign slogan is, "Vote Leitch 4 Governor, \$\$ 4 You!"

The Democratic frontrunners in the hotly contested primary race are already starting to spook incumbent Smith. Smith has started running an attack ad against Rep. Jeff Merkley and fellow candidate Steve Novick that claims "More of the same when it's time for a change."

One change that Smith doesn't seem to believe in is climate change. That phrase appears nowhere on his Senate website, nor does "global warming."

Merkley and Novick, on the other hand, see climate change as the number one environmental issue facing Oregonians. Fellow Democratic challenger Candy Neville cites the proposed siting of liquid natural gas lines as her top enviro issue.

Rounding out the Democratic field are Salem-based David Loera, who has focused on immigration issues, retiree Roger Obrist and fitness instructor and perpetual candidate Pavel Goberman. John Frohnmayer will be running against Smith and his Democratic opponent as an Independent in the November election.

Although Neville has made some waves — big waves for someone who didn't take donations for most of her campaign — it's Merkley and Novick who are seen as the Democratic challengers most likely to take on Smith in the fall. Merkley has been categorized as the "traditional candidate," and indeed his campaign style reflects that, focusing as it does on his leadership and track record.

When asked what would make him the most effective candidate to have in the Senate, he responded, "I've spent my life bringing people together to fight for change," and referenced his experiences in Oregon legislature "fighting special interests" and putting together "a band of progressives to take back the Oregon House and end the paralysis in Salem."

Novick has waged a campaign that capitalizes on his differences from the norm. He's not just an outsider candidate; he's a 4'9" outsider candidate with a hook for a left arm. It's a strategy that has got him press from the *Huffington Post* to Fox News.

But the reason he says he would be effective in office, he says, is that he "will do a better job of conveying to my colleagues that we can take the risks that need to be taken to take this country back." — Camilla Mortensen



Steve Novick

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



news Briefs

GIVING AWAY THE GREENS

It's that time of year when the rain seems warmer and the clouds above the Willamette Valley break for moments of sunlight. It's spring. Lane County's home gardeners are sowing their crops. Even as the slugs congregate and the crows unearth the newly planted corn, steadfast gardeners know they will always have surplus fruits and vegetables. This year, that extra produce could come in handy. Donations at FOOD For Lane County, according to Barbara Butzer, programs and services director at FFLC, are down by more than a million pounds from this time last year, despite the success of canned food drives.

So, what can gardeners do to ease the shortage? Plan ahead by planting an extra row or even a whole raised bed. Then bring the additional harvest to FFLC's storage facility. Here's the rundown from Butzer for all green thumbs ready to pitch in and make

a difference:

- Produce can be brought to the reception area of the FFLC warehouse at 770 Bailey Hill Road (just north of West 11th). It's open for deliveries from 8 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday.
- The best time to deliver food is earlier in the week and earlier in the day. Produce that arrives late on a Friday won't be distributed until Monday.
- The best foods are those that store reasonably well and aren't too unusual. Carrots, potatoes, tomatoes, peppers are all familiar foods that will be well received and used promptly. Raspberries and strawberries aren't the best choice. It's fine to bring tomatillos and other foods that fit into "ethnic" diets.
- Firm fruits and vegetables keep the longest — root crops, squash, cabbage, hard fruits like plums and apples. Head lettuce is preferable to leaf lettuce. Onions, carrots, potatoes and other items that can be used in soups and stews are very versatile.
- Sturdy containers are preferred, especially for soft items, as it protects them during transport. Paper bags are OK for firm items, but paper bags will not hold up if they become wet.
- Having the produce separated by item will make it much easier for shoppers (representatives from agencies distributing the food) to find what they need in quantities they need. They are working on short timelines when picking up food.

Lane Area Herbicide Spray Schedule

- **ODOT:** Call 1-888-996-8080 or Dennis Joll, IVM Coordinator at 686-7526 for exact spray schedules. Approximate schedule: May 5-15 Hwy. 126 West, Hwy. 36, and Hwy. 101.
- **Chezem Road:** Plum Creek Timberlands (541) 336-6224 will ground spray Milestone, triclopyr, and glyphosate herbicides starting May 15th (#50339).
- **Near Ferguson,** Fish, Lake, Coyote, Hawley and Barlow creeks: Seneca Jones Timber (461-6245) will spray 16 miles of roads with Garlon 4 and Milestone herbicides starting May 15 (#50331).

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