

UNDERDOG SPEAKS OUT

He doesn't have many big endorsements in the conservative House District 7, and not much money for his campaign, but Democrat Don Nordin of Cottage Grove is hoping the wave of voters disillusioned with Republican thinking will help him unseat Bruce Hanna.

Hanna was appointed to the Oregon House in 2004 when fellow Republican Jeff Kruse resigned to run for the Oregon Senate. District 7 includes Cottage Grove and parts of south and east Lane County and north and east Douglas County. Hanna, president of the Roseburg Coca-Cola Bottling Plant, is currently minority leader in the House and sits on the Ways and Means Committee and Interim Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources.

He favors boosting timber cutting and reducing government programs.

Nordin owns and operates Equinox Industries, which manufactures bike trailers and garden carts. He has served in the Peace Corps and locally on the Cottage Grove Planning Commission, Coalition for a Healthy Lane County and other civic groups.

"I don't have anything against Hanna as a person," says Nordin, "but we're running against the wall here and we just can't continue business as usual."

Nordin says the last Legislature tried to make changes, "but with a 31-29 (Democratic) majority, they didn't do too much. Adding another two to that majority would help a lot. Everything the Legislature does should be in consort with adjusting to the challenges we are going to have with climate change, peak oil, the financial meltdown ... aquifers drying up, running out of food, population explosion, the whole gamut of things we are going to have to address quickly if the next generation is going to have the proper resources to deal with it at all."

The Oregon League of Conservation Voters gave Hanna a 12 percent approval rating in 2007.

Working in favor of Nordin's campaign is the increase in voter registration in Douglas County. Of the 4,000 new voters, nearly 3,000 are Democrats. Also, Nordin says, he and his Democratic opponent, G. Nick McKibben, together garnered more votes in the primary than the incumbent Hanna. — *Ted Taylor*



CLEARCUT OR MEADOW?

The 2002 Biscuit fire in southern Oregon is the issue that refuses to die. Disputes centering on the controversial post-fire salvage logging linger on, and a recent timber sale covered by the Biscuit fire's environmental impact statement (EIS) has conservationists worried that the Forest Service may have cut trees in order to



preclude a future wilderness designation for the area and allow for more logging in the future around the popular Tin Cup trail near the Kalmiopsis Wilderness.

Scott Conroy, supervisor of the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, wrote, "No unburned old-growth forests were salvage logged," in an op-ed in the *Medford Tribune* about post-Biscuit fire logging. But George Sexton of Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center (KS Wild) says the Low Meadow timber sale near the wild and scenic Chetco River clearcut old-growth trees under the guise of a "meadow restoration project."

The logging took place in an old-growth reserve in an inventoried roadless area, an area that is "a key watershed for salmon recovery" says Sexton. "You'd think old-growth logging would be precluded by the roadless rule," he says. The logs were lifted out of the area by helicopter.

KS Wild fought the timber sale, which was approved in 1997, before the group existed, arguing that in the 10 years since the sale was approved changes such as the encroachment of barred owls into spotted owl habitat and the spread of sudden oak death should have required a new analysis of the sale. Instead the Forest Service issued a number of internal memos looking at the impacts to avoid a public review process, according to Sexton. In August the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a ruling that said the Forest Service didn't need to do a new analysis because the logging was covered under the Biscuit's EIS. According to Sexton, the Forest Service said in court that the project didn't involve clearcutting, or logging trees over 40 inches in diameter.

The logging took place not long after the ruling, and Sexton calls it "a wilderness preclusion clearcut," and fears this timber sale could interfere with future efforts to preserve the area. He asks, "Why else log in pristine wilderness? It doesn't make sense." — *Camilla Mortensen*

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

THIS WEEK: A FEW OF JOHN McCain AND SARAH PALIN'S 100% GENUINE AND EXTREMELY COMPELLING REASONS TO VOTE FOR JOHN McCain AND SARAH PALIN

OBAMA IS INEXPERIENCED!
HE HAS CERTAINLY NEVER HAD TO KEEP AN EYE ON PUTIN REARING HIS HEAD AND COMING INTO THE AIR SPACE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND, UH, STUFF LIKE THAT!

JOE BIDEN IS AN ELDERLY POLITICAL INSIDER!
HE'S BEEN IN WASHINGTON SINCE I WAS, LIKE, IN SECOND GRADE! HE REPRESENTS THE STATUS QUO--AND WE REPRESENT YOUTHFUL ENERGY AND, LIKE, CHANGE!

JOHN McCain IS THE REAL REFORMER!
IF BY "REFORMER" YOU MEAN SOMEONE WHO HAS LONG DESCRIBED HIMSELF AS AN OPPONENT OF MOST GOVERNMENT REGULATION! BUT ONLY NIXON CAN GO TO CHINA, RIGHT, MY FRIENDS?

THE OBAMA CAMPAIGN IS ALWAYS LOOKING BACKWARDS!
THEY KEEP BRINGING UP THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION AND STUFF! I MEAN, THAT'S, LIKE, ANCIENT HISTORY, DON'TCHA KNOW!

AND OF COURSE--OBAMA IS ERRATIC!
JOE THE PLUMBER DOESN'T NEED THAT, MY FRIENDS! JOE THE PLUMBER NEEDS THE STEADFAST LEADERSHIP I HAVE EXHIBITED THROUGHOUT THIS CAMPAIGN! JOE THE PLUMBER DESERVES NO LESS!

ONLY WHO CAN GO WHERE?

WHY WON'T THEY ADDRESS THE TIMELY ISSUES, MY FRIENDS--SUCH AS THE WEATHER UNDERGROUND?

AND IF THAT DOESN'T WORK FOR YA--I'LL BE BACK IN 2012!

news Briefs

POLICE AUDITOR UNANSWERED QUESTIONS

After several months of friction between the Eugene Police Department and the independent police auditor, City Manager Jon Ruiz finally waded in an effort to settle the unrest.

Ruiz wrote a memo with attached city attorney opinions to the Council stating that the auditor will participate in internal affairs interviews and he will try to resolve disputes to try and get the auditor the information she needs to do her job.

Ruiz said, "I fully support the current police civilian review system." But that support may have to be demonstrated to the public more through deeds than words and many important questions remain unresolved. Here's a rundown:

- Ruiz describes the "purpose" of the auditor and review system as increasing trust in the police department. Is it? Is the auditor just a PR position, or is it to increase trust by actually increasing police accountability?

- Ruiz wrote, "Chief Lehner and I did not agree on all aspects of how the oversight system should function." What did they disagree about? Is that why Lehner left? Did Ruiz force Lehner out?

- Ruiz said police review issues should not be "aired in public." Will the public feel safer if when it comes to police review, it's kept in the dark?

- The public friction between the police auditor and police department has been raging for months. Why did it take so long for Ruiz to do his job as city manager?

- The auditor complained that the police hid

a secret police complaint and denied her access to review the case. Will the police now allow the auditor to fully access the "secret" case?

- Police Auditor Dawn Reynolds said she requested additional investigation on the secret case, but the police did nothing, in defiance of the ordinance. Will the police conduct the investigation as required by law?

- Ruiz said that if the city attorney and the auditor disagree on what information can be provided to the auditor, he will meet with the parties to "collectively determine how to resolve the disagreement." If there's no agreement, who decides?

- Ruiz hires, fires and decides the pay of the city attorney. If the attorney therefore works for Ruiz and not for the City Council and its independent auditor, should the council and auditor hire an outside attorney for legal opinions on disputes between the manager and auditor?

- Ruiz said the police chief should not suspend investigations of police wrongdoing unless there is a "real necessity" to "avoid jeopardizing a pending current criminal investigation or prosecution." Who makes the final decision? How high is the standard? What about cases where the officer isn't the focus of the criminal investigation? Wouldn't evidence that an officer abused a defendant always "jeopardize" a conviction?

- The city attorney wrote that city staff must comply with ordinances passed by the council unless they "violate a contractual obligation." Does that mean that the city manager can subvert the power of the council by writing contracts that contradict the council?

- The city attorney wrote that the auditor must initiate an investigation "within 60 days" of the incident. Does that mean the police and/or district attorney can revoke external review of the worst cases by suspending an investigation pending a criminal case? Has the auditor already lost the ability to initiate an investigation of the May Taser case? — *Alan Pittman*

DARK SIDE OF SPORTS CULTURE

Is something rotten at Autzen?

During the recent Ducks home game