

Regular maintenance could reduce expenses, says candidate

From page 8

come the gem of the Nehalem. He is unmarried.



David VanMeter

VanMeter has been in Vernonia for six years and is involved in church and other community activities. He says he wants to be involved in making Vernonia a safe, moral environment for people, with successful businesses. He also feels that his experience in maintenance management would be useful to the city.

VanMeter and his wife have school age children.

Running for Columbia County Commissioner are Democrat Dale Heimuller, who prevailed over incumbent Sandy Dillard, and Republican Mike White, who was unopposed in the primary election.

Heimuller, making his third run for the post, has stressed the county's need for a better program of road maintenance and repair. With 39 years at Scappoose Sand & Gravel, Heimuller says he is well versed in road construction. He feels road department money can be used more efficiently, but he supports the two-cent county vehicle fuel tax because of the need for more funds dedicated to roads.

Heimuller opposes the 10 cent per ton depletion fee on aggregate.

White agrees that more money is needed in the road department, but he supports the fee on aggregate and

other minerals rather than the vehicle fuel tax.

Initially, White said, he supported the fuel tax, but changed his mind after gas prices climbed steeply and the federal government increased gas taxes.

White stresses his practical business background as manager and part owner of a family-owned furniture and appliance store in Scappoose. He contends that running Columbia County is similar to running a business.

Both candidates feel that state land use regulations infringe on property owners' rights.

White says property owners should be able to use their land for purposes denied under present law. He feels the county needs to become more involved in developing alternative land use regulations.

Heimuller said more control of land use is needed within the county, rather than at the state level. When property owners have to go through the county planning commission, the board of commissioners, the Land Conservation and Development Commission and the Land Use Board of Appeals, it's cumbersome, expensive and in need of a change. He also advocates a close working relationship between

county and city planning.

Heimuller has served on the Scappoose School District, the Columbia Education Services District, the Scappoose Planning Commission and the Columbia County Fair Board. He has also been on the Board of Directors of the Port of St. Helens for the last seven years.

White is president of the Scappoose City Club and currently serves on the Small Cities Tourism Project of the Oregon Tourism Alliance.

White is married and the father of two children.

Heimuller and his wife have three grown children.

Three additional county offices are on the ballot, all of them with the incumbent running unopposed:

Democrat Elizabeth (Betty) Huser, County Clerk, defeated her only opponent in the primary election.

Assessor Tom Linhares, a Democrat, and Sheriff Bruce Oester, in a non-partisan position, have had no challengers this year.

On the state level, veteran State Rep. Bruce Hugo (D-Scappoose), the incumbent in Dist. 1, represents part of Washington County and most of Columbia County, including a small portion of this newspaper's circulation area, but not Vernonia. He had hoped, along with many others, that redistricting in 1991 would put

all of the county into the same district, but it is now doubtful that will happen.

Preliminary census figures, Hugo said, indicate that the county may be more greatly divided.

Challenging Hugo is Republican Jim Whitfield, from Portland, in his first major campaign.

Hugo opposes ballot Measure 5, to limit property taxes, because it would eliminate programs designed to promote agriculture and timber production, including the timber severance tax, replacing them with annual property taxes based on the true cash value of the land.

Whitfield supports the measure because, he says, it would provide a definite tax amount, which is better for business.

Both candidates expressed frustration with workers compensation insurance, but Hugo indicated that poor administration in SAIF and the lack of anti-trust regulations for the insurance industry were the primary problems.

Whitfield said premiums are high because workers compensation is an open-ended welfare policy. He praised recent changes in SAIF regulations that he said give double compensation to seriously injured workers, a statement that brought boos from the worker-oriented audience at Candidates' Night.

Incumbent State Representative for Dist. 2, Tom Hanlon (D-Cannon Beach), decided not to run for re-election, leaving the position open to a newcomer.

Mike Maki, a Republican from Seaside, is making his second run for the seat and was unopposed in the primary election. His opponent, Democrat Jackie Taylor, from Astoria, came out on top of a large slate of Democrats who vied for Hanlon's seat in the primary.

Taylor and Maki are both small business owners. Maki has owned an insurance agency in Seaside since 1961 and Taylor, with her husband, owns a small drugstore in Warrenton. They both oppose banning log exports from private land and they both support clear cutting to harvest timber, though Taylor admits she opposed clear cutting inside the city limits of Astoria.

They are not in agreement on workers compensation insurance, however. A lot more work needs to be done to make the system fair to both employers and employees, Taylor said, and thinks more citizens should be involved in the process. Maki says only that litigation is what has increased costs.

Asked about Measure 7 on the state ballot (which would require people receiving unemployment compensation, food stamps or AFDC to work at 90% of the minimum

Please see page 20

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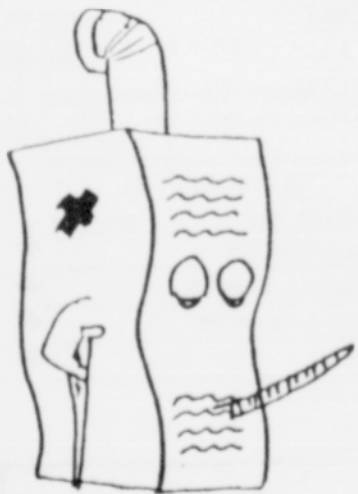
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