

More Letters

From page 3

in time, Hugo and others in the accounting process had to approve of each separate cash-advance. This theft was an abuse of trust, by both Hugo and others in the County, who failed to promptly detect or stop it. The county financial officer on duty during Hugo's theft has since retired and now, curiously, heads the political action committee to keep Hugo.

Hugo did not come forward with his problem, but was caught when someone "blew the whistle". After his sentencing, Hugo did not volunteer his resignation. He continues to stay in office despite over 3,000 recall signatures.

Regardless of his weaknesses, motives, need for treatment or treatment outcomes, these criminal acts are too serious a character impairment in an elected leader to go unchallenged. An elected official is held to a

higher legal and ethical standard than one who holds a non-elected managerial job in government or one who works in the private sector. Elected officials are trusted to represent the interests of the people when directing government power and money. Bruce Hugo violated this basic trust.

Ask yourself this: What would happen in the private sector if Mr. Hugo were convicted of embezzlement? Do you think that he would keep his job independent of any criminal prosecution? You know the answer: He would be fired in a minute.

I urge all citizens to vote Yes to recall Bruce Hugo County Commissioner.

Sincerely,
Tom Madison
Executive Director
Columbia County
Taxpayers United
Scappoose

Mother, Daughter Tea was a blessing

To the Editor:

The ladies of Vernonia Assembly of God Joy Fellowship would like to thank everyone that helped make the Mother and Daughter Tea possible.

First, especially Debbie Sturdefant of the Sidetrack Cafe, for the gracious donation of the use of their restaurant. Debbie helped in every way she could and tolerated our intrusions in her busy schedule. We suggest you consider dining in her fine establishment and support this exciting new venture.

Thanks to the Andersens, of *The INDEPENDENT* for putting our article in the paper; I might add, because of my inexperience, at the last moment's notice.

Also we wish to thank Melissa Hunt of Mike Pihl Logging for the use of their reader board. To the Seagers of CATV Inc. for allowing us to use their cable channel to advertise our tea.

We were glad to have Linda Taylor of Rainier Assembly of God with us to share her incredible story of recovery from such a devastating automobile accident. We were blessed by the many mothers and daughters that joined us for this special occasion. There were close to eighty present at the tea. It was truly a joy to have so many ladies from our great community coming together in one place.

We hope that everyone received some small blessing to remember and we are looking forward to another Joy Fellowship gathering sometime close to Christmas. As the fall season nears, there will be more information about this next event. Again,

thanks to the many people that made this all possible.

Sincerely,
Carol Ely
Women's Ministries
Coordinator
Assembly of God
Vernonia

County must keep Hugo's experience

To the Editor:

Concerning the Recall Hugo campaign—Bruce Hugo made a really stupid mistake—but I sincerely hope the voters of Columbia County don't get carried away in a frenzy of retribution and end up punishing the citizens of our communities for his errors! Mr. Hugo stood up and confessed his guilt; paid the mandated penalty (and more, and is now showing the courage to try to continue to do his job until we decide his fate.

With the spotlight of intense public scrutiny focused on Columbia County and our Commissioners, does anyone really think that any more irregularities could possibly occur now? Our justice system believes that Mr. Hugo has been sufficiently punished. I hope we, as voters, can accept that and move forward to a rational decision about the overall good of Columbia County.

Mr. Hugo is an experienced and capable administrator, and right now we need that capability in the Commissioner's offices, when the other two Commissioners are still learning about their new responsibilities. Mr. Hugo's prior track record as an able steward of Columbia County's resources should be recognized; and his insights and on-the-job knowledge should continue to be available to

Mr. (Joel) Yarbor and Mr. (Bill) McDonald.

Mr. Hugo's current term of office runs for another year or so. When election time comes, if we still think we need a change in the Commissioners' office, at least then we can make a calm and reasoned choice.

I received my ballot yesterday, and I put it back in the mail this morning. I urge all of you to Vote No on the recall ballot, and to return it right away.

Sincerely,
Dixie London
Scappoose

Support a crooked politician? Why?

To the Editor:

Commissioner Bruce Hugo has convinced some people to support him in the Recall Hugo campaign, but what does that mean? He admitted he's a thief. Does that mean they support a thief? If so, why?

He admitted he used his office for personal gain. Does that mean they support a crooked politician? If so, why?

I don't think very many people in Columbia County really support a crooked politician who has admitted he's a thief. Vote "Yes"; recall Hugo.

Caren McGaugh
Vernonia

Recall will restore Hugo's credibility

To The Editor:

Commissioner Bruce Hugo is facing what is probably the most important election of his career. To restore his credibility as an elected official, I be-

Please see page 11

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Community Calendar

JUNE

1 2 3
4 5 6 7 8 9 10
11 12 13 14 15 16 17
18 19 20 21 22 23 24
25 26 27 28 29 30

JULY

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
9 10 11 12 13 14 15
16 17 18 19 20 21 22
23 24 25 26 27 28 29
30 31

AUG

1 2 3 4 5
6 7 8 9 10 11 12
13 14 15 16 17 18 19
20 21 22 23 24 25 26
27 28 29 30 31

VERNONIA

Adult & Family Services	2nd Thursday	1-2:00 p.m., School District Ofc.
AFS	1st Wednesday	7:30 p.m., VHS Library
Alcoholics Anonymous	Fridays	8 p.m., 1st Baptist Church
American Cancer Society	2nd Wednesday	12:30 p.m., Golf Course
AWANA Clubs	Wednesdays	7-8:30 p.m., Evangelical Church
Boosters	2nd Wednesday	7:30 p.m., VHS Library
Boy Scouts	Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., LDS Church
Boy Scout Parents	4th Thursday	8-9:00 p.m. WGS Cafeteria
Chamber of Commerce	2nd Wednesday	7:30 a.m., Country Kitchen
Community Center Project	2nd Wednesday	6 p.m., School District Ofc.
Cub Scouts	Tuesdays	7:00 p.m., WGS Gym
Girl Scouts	Thursdays	6:30-8 p.m., Christian Church
Izaak Walton League	3rd Wednesday	For location call 429-7193
Jamboree Committee	1st Wednesday	7 p.m., VHS library
Lions Club	1st & 3rd Tuesdays	6:30 p.m., Lew's Place
MTC Training & Placement	2nd Thursday	1-2:00 p.m., School District Ofc.
Nehalem Valley Car Club	1st Tuesday	7 p.m., Crazy Charlie's
Oregon State Employ. Dept.	2nd Thursday	1-2:00 p.m., School District Ofc.
Preschool Story Hour	Wednesdays	10:30 a.m., City Library
Ridge Riders Saddle Club	Last Thursday	7:30 p.m., City Library
Senior Center Directors	1st Friday	1 p.m., Senior Center
Senior & Disabled Services	2nd Thursday	1-2:00 p.m., School District Ofc.
Society of Arts & Crafts	2nd Thursday	City Library, 429-7605 for time
TOPS	Tuesdays	6:30 p.m., 627 Adams
Vernonia Cares Directors	2nd Thursday*	7:30 p.m., 627 Adams
Vernonia City Council	1st & 3rd Mondays	7:30 p.m., City Library
Vernonia Grange	2nd Saturday	10:00 a.m., Grange Hall

Vernonia Planning Comm.	1st & 3rd Thursdays	7:00 p.m., City Library
Vernonia Preschool Directors	1st Tuesday	7 p.m., 627 Adams
Vernonia Pride	4th Thursday	7 p.m., VHS Library
Vernonia Rural Fire District	2nd Tuesday	7:30 p.m., Fire Station
Vernonia School District	2nd Thursday	8 p.m., School District Office
Vernonia Volunteer Firefighters	2nd Monday	7 p.m., Fire Station
WOEC Directors	3rd Tuesday	7 p.m., WOEC

MIST-BIRKENFELD

Mist-Birkenfeld Fire Bd.	2nd Tuesday	7:30 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B Firefighters Assoc.	1st, 2nd & 3rd Wednesdays	7 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B Ambulance Assoc.	1st, 2nd & 3rd Thursdays	7 p.m., Main Fire Station
Natal Grange	2nd Wednesday	7:30 p.m., Grange Hall

COLUMBIA COUNTY (All meet in St. Helens unless otherwise noted.)

Board of Commissioners	Wednesdays	10 a.m., Courthouse
Citizens for Senior Justice	2nd Tuesday	7 p.m., Sunset Park Church
COLCO Transportation	2nd Friday	10:30 a.m., Courthouse
County Council of Seniors	2nd Friday	1:00 p.m., Courthouse
Columbia ESD	3rd Wednesday	7:30 p.m., 800 Port Ave.
County Fair Board	2nd & 4th Tuesday	7 p.m., 4-H Bldg., Fairgrounds
County Parks Commission	2nd Wednesday	7 p.m., 1054 Oregon St.
Emergency Comm. Dist.	3rd Tuesday	7 p.m., Courthouse
Historical Society	4th Wednesday	Noon, location call 429-3713
Traffic Safety Commission	1st Wednesday	7 a.m., Village Inn

*January, April, July & October only

Organizations and meeting dates not listed may be included by calling 429-9410, or by mail to The INDEPENDENT, 1206 State Avenue, Vernonia, OR 97064.