

**More Letters to the Editor**

**From page 16**

Younger kids waiting to play in YOUR game, sit in the bleachers and be a good audience.

Parents with young children—the football stadium is not your personal daycare center. If your young children can't sit still for the game, PLEASE LEAVE THEM HOME!! They have no business jumping and running through puddles, sliding down banisters, and running up and down the bleachers. They need to learn appropriate behavior. Perhaps this would be a good time to teach them.

Be attentive, be supportive, and above all, be respectful. These seventh and eighth graders have worked very hard to be on the football field. This is their time to shine. Let them.

**Alice Brock  
Vernonia**

**Corrections officer asks support for jail**

To the Editor:

My name is Wayne Thompson. Most of the "old timers" around know me, but a lot of

the "new comers" may not.

I was born and raised in Columbia County and have seen the rapid growth of population along with the increase in crimes. I've worked at the Columbia County Jail since 1977 and am heading into my twenty-second year as a correctional officer.

I'm writing this letter in support of the jail levy because our present jail is inadequate in size, which puts our staff and inmates in serious danger. Another reason is from seeing other counties in the past who were in our present position. They ended up putting out money on lawsuits and lawyers and then paying for a new jail on top of it. By building a new jail here in our county, we can save quite a lump sum of money by avoiding the unnecessary lawsuits.

Be sure to get out and vote!  
Sincerely,

**Wayne Thompson  
Rainier**

**Don't let 9-1-1 have a crisis of its own**

To the Editor:

Columbia County has been

made aware of what will happen if our Measure 5-51 for 9-1-1 passes. We think it is only fair to inform the public of what will happen if the measure does not pass.

Many people are under the impression that Measure 5-51 is only for enhanced 9-1-1 and a new building to house it. Those are two very important components of the measure, but not all of it. This measure is also an operating levy so we can continue to provide the same high level of service to the public, and public safety agencies.

The Columbia 9-1-1 Communications District is responsible for answering 12 emergency phone lines as well as 11 business or "non-emergency" lines. We are also responsible for answering all radios and dispatch calls for all police, fire and medical personnel in Columbia County. That totals 16 radio frequencies.

If Measure 5-51 does not pass, we are realistically looking at reducing the number of dispatchers to handle an increasing amount of calls. What this means to the public is that we will only have one or two

Communications Specialists on duty at a time, instead of the two to four we have on duty 24 hours a day now. This will have drastic effects on the level of service provided.

What kind of "drastic" effects? People who call for service on 9-1-1 or on the non-emergency phone lines run the risk of being put on hold. The processing of calls will be slower as fewer dispatchers will be handling all the duties of taking the call, determining the proper agency and dispatching it over the radio, while trying to answer other phones and radios. Emergency callers are already experiencing busy signals when they dial 9-1-1 due to the fact that each city only has two 9-1-1 trunks. With enhanced 9-1-1 there will be multiple lines for all cities.

Please do not let this potential for improvement of services turn into a crisis. Our goal as 9-1-1 Communication Specialists and members of our communities is to provide the fastest, most reliable service possible. Help us to achieve this goal. VOTE YES ON MEASURE 5-51.

Thank you,

**Keri L. Simmons, President  
Columbia 9-1-1 Communications District Union  
Columbia City**

**A view of county commission seekers**

To the Editor:

I attended the recent Candidates Fair held at the Village Inn (St. Helens, Oct. 1). I feel the need to respond to several issues.

First when Rita Bernhard stated that these last 3-1/2 years while Joel Yarbor has been a County Commissioner have been the worst years for our county, I would like to ask her to speak with the employees in the Courthouse. They support him, his organizing skills, and his "team effort" approach to issues. I also find it interesting that Rita says that she will bring consistent direction to the county. Isn't the Scappoose City Council a mess these days? How does she [a Scappoose councilor] feel she can run an entire county, when she can't even run the City Council?

Please see page 18

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