

**More Letters**

**From page 15**

gines blocked the way, and again, we were stopped. It took a few minutes to get rid of the accursed and cursing cabby and to realize that it was my house that was on fire. There I was in the crowd, with my suitcases, and with literally no place to go. A sympathetic neighbor brought me a chair and I sat on the sidewalk in the midst of the total chaos and clouds of smoke.

That was only the first of a series of difficulties that would seem exaggerated in a novel. I won't go into them all, and I do thank my lucky stars that my floor (I rent) was left inhabitable in spite of boarded up windows and "emergency" electricity that made by computer go haywire and burned out my toaster completely. After eight months, the house is finally being repaired, very, very slowly - it seems San Francisco has such a shortage of contractors, not to mention the tightest housing market in the country, that they can only work evenings and weekends. At least that's what my landlord says, and I am too exhausted to argue, since I acted as his agent and interpreter with the insurance and everybody else throughout this time.

In spite of everything, I have worked steadily on my book, *Pulling up Stakes: A Pioneer's Guide to Starting Over at Sixty*. The formal proposal is now at the Writers' Market in Maui, hoping to be noticed by a sympathetic agent or editor. With priorities being my health, not good, and my vehicle, which has been in the shop since July, you can easily believe it has taken me these eight months to process the chaos and to write about it.

I talk often in my book about the risks of starting over, the courage it requires to let go of all we've already won and strike out for the unknown, having packed light. But courage doesn't just apply to risk-taking in the outer world; it applies also to the bravery one needs to face one's own weaknesses. To me "the dark night of the soul" represents those times when we seem to be stripped of everything, when what hope remains is clinging with the dregs to the inside of our glass.

The last eight months have forced me to face my grief, anger and frustration in full measure, and, if anything, have made even firmer my resolve to move eventually to that beautiful valley where people take the time for human relationships, where I felt at home and welcome, even as a stranger. For now, life has intervened and forced me to put those plans on hold, but

I'll continue to subscribe to *The INDEPENDENT* to keep my dream alive. With many thanks for the kindness you all showed me and hoping to see you again soon.

**Carol Sawyer  
San Francisco, California  
Likes Corsiglia's track record**

To the Editor:

I support Joe Corsiglia for county commissioner. He has a proven track record for listening to the public, making a decision and then following up on it. It doesn't matter whether it is a big or shall issue; he'll go to bat for it. Joe was the only city council member to vote for the support saving the historic black walnut tree in St. Helens, and agreed that voters should be involved and approve annexations (instead of the city council making them). When there was a controversy to change existing street names, Joe listened and supported public wishes. Joe is his own man and doesn't belong to any "good old boy" groups. He will have some good ideas and ways to support and finance our county parks, giving them the attention they deserve.

Commissioner Hyde has never had his priorities in the right place! While subsidizing big business and what he considers to be "family wage" jobs (\$10 per hour), he's completely forgotten the public he serves and our quality of life that we so desperately need.

In my opinion, Joe Corsiglia won't be running around the whole country spending our tax dollars. He will be here, in Columbia County, listening to and caring for the needs of the citizens.

**Thelma Bonar  
Warren**

*Editor's Note: Joe Corsiglia is a candidate for Position #1 on the board of commissioners; Tony Hyde is seeking re-election to Position #3. They are not opponents.*

**Columbia County Parks need support**

To the Editor:

Like most property owners, my husband and I try to protect our investment by periodically repainting our buildings, putting fresh gravel on our drive to prevent ruts from forming, keeping fences in repair to keep our animals in and others out...the usual chores that property owners do.

As Columbia County residents, we also have an ownership in county holdings such as the Parks system.

Measure 5-67 will allow us to maintain our parks and keep them open for use by

the public, who are the owners. 780 acres of parks, with more than a million dollars worth of buildings, boat ramps, restrooms, homes, full-hook up RV sites, playing fields, baseball and soccer fields, are at risk of being neglected, or closed if this levy does not pass. Parks are not funded by local taxes. Every available asset has been used thus far, to keep parks in operation. Those limited assets have been exhausted and thus we are asking the residents of Columbia County to vote YES on Measure 5-67 and protect our valuable investment in parks, and keep them available to our residents, their families and visitors.

**Glenda Williams  
Clatskanie**

**Scott Burge is my choice, he cares**

To the Editor:

I wanted to take a moment and tell everyone why I hope that you will elect Scott Burge our next county commissioner. As a recent graduate of Scappoose High School and freshman at the University of Portland I had the opportunity to get to know Scott while working at Columbia Espresso Company inside Fred Meyer. He would come in for his coffee and we'd talk often about issues that faced Scappoose and Columbia County. He always seemed knowledgeable and sincere in his discussion of the issues. He seemed to be very passionate about serving the people of our county in a positive way that would make everyone in the county proud. Scott always seemed to look at things optimistically and regularly encouraged me to be involved in politics and to learn the issues. He was always nice and polite to me and that is the kind of person I want representing me as my county commissioner. Because of that when I get my ballot I'm going to vote for Scott Burge for County Commissioner and hope you will all do the same.

Sincerely,  
**Raeann Spaulding  
Portland**

**VRFPD says thanks for business support**

To the Editor:

The Vernonia Rural Fire Protection District would like to thank the following businesses for their support of the National Fire Prevention Agency, which provides our fire district with fire prevention materials:

Northwest Natural Gas Co., Weller & Sons Trucking, Gwin & Sons Logging, Allied

Logging Company, Inc., Adhesive Packaging Systems, Inc., Buckner Land Salvage, Inc., Bridge Street Mini Mart, Meyer's Auto Body, L.J. Christophersen Trucking, Mike Pihl Logging Co., Inc., Providence Health System, RSG Forest Products, Triple S Service, Vernonia Inn, Holce Logging Company, Inc., L. Jepson & Son, LLC, Read Builders, Inc., Vernonia Pack-

aging & Shipping Service, Skidmore & Son, Creative Impulse, Natal Shake & Ridge, Vernonia Country Kitchen, Vernonia Hardware, Vernonia Realty & Insurance, Vernonia Western Auto-True Value, Gardner Farm & Home Supply, Gloria's Spar Tree Restaurant, Mist Store.

**Fire Chief Paul Epler  
VRFPD**

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**E L E C T**

**SHAWNA SYKES**

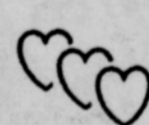
Columbia County Commissioner  
Pos. #3



**AS YOUR COMMISSIONER I WILL WORK HARD TO:**

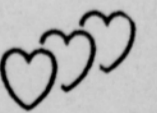
- ▼ Make County government more accessible to ALL of its residents.
- ▼ Increase child care options
- ▼ Improve transportation options for commuters and seniors
- ▼ Provide ethical & courageous leadership

**VOTE SHAWNA SYKES  
COLUMBIA COUNTY COMMISSIONER #3**



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