

Letters to the Editor

Opponents of rock fee hide identity in anonymity

To the Editor:

Who is the "Save our Roads Committee"?

Glacier ("Lone Star") Northwest's Public Affairs Manager is passing out brochures entitled "5 Good Reasons Why The Rock Tax Is A BAD Idea." The "Save Our Roads Committee" has published identical ads in local newspapers.

Because the "Committee" doesn't disclose who's really behind their ads, and is way late filing its statement of organization, both required by law, we don't know WHO they are, but we can guess.

Measure 5-81 eliminates the current 15 cent fee on material used for reclamation [of gravel pits], but increases the depletion fee on other rock by 10 cents a ton. The "Committee" wants you to think all of this increase will be passed on to Columbia County taxpayers. But, much or most of the rock goes to the Portland Metro area, by barge (Glacier), by train (Morse Bros.), or by truck.

Shouldn't rock buyers in the Metro area reimburse you for the noise, dust, holes and blight they cause in this County? Yes. Will local taxpayers pay any of this fee increase? Maybe. If

you buy a dumptruck load of rock, it will cost you about \$1.50 more. When was the last time you bought a truckload of rock?

The "Committee" complains "10 cents is a 66 percent increase!" That's because the fee is tiny to begin with. An increase from no fee to one cent a ton would be an infinitely larger percentage. The "Committee" could scream, "Bureaucrats Propose Infinite Tax Increase!", but it would still be just a penny.

The 10 cent increase is dedicated to your County roads, but the "Committee" claims it would result in "fewer roads" being repaired because it would increase the cost to government for road repairs. But 10 cents is a microscopic increase when it's spread out among all of the industries, road departments and residents who benefit from our rock in the Metro area. In Columbia County it's a modest, but significant, increase for the roads County voters drive on every day.

Don't let the "Committee" fool you! Vote YES on 5-81.

John K. Knight
Columbia City

Corsiglia thanks all for consideration

To the Editor:

I want to thank all those who have been so gracious to Debi and I throughout our campaign. I hope you realize how blessed you are to live not only in a free country but in an area most consider a little piece of heaven. Holding on to the best of the past and being selective about your future will truly make the Nehalem Valley an enviable and fruitful place to live.

We will be collecting our signs shortly after the election so if you see one you think I may have overlooked please contact me at 503-397-4275. Its been a great experience and I hope to see you soon.

Joe and Debi Corsiglia
St. Helens

Tony Hyde is the only logical choice

To the Editor:

Now, more than ever, Columbia County needs accomplished, experienced leadership. This is why Tony Hyde is the only logical choice for Columbia County Commissioner, Position #3.

This letter is not about the election

Shopping for gifts? Look in Vernonia first

To the Editor:

It's that time of year again to start thinking about Christmas gifts. I've been trying to figure out why anyone needs to leave Vernonia to shop when there are so many resources right here.

Here are some suggestions for your holiday shopping:

Oh Fudge has great candies and jams; see Merchant Palace.com for the popular Pokemon; office supplies from The Closet make great stocking stuffers.

There are fantastic items at Serenity Gardens; see KT's Klutter for dolls and collectibles; my shop, Granny's Crafts, has something for everyone.

The population of Columbia County has grown. It was inevitable. Tony Hyde has worked tirelessly over the past four years as our Commissioner to bring new businesses to the county. His efforts have attracted enterprises, both large and small, that provide jobs and support the tax base. Through his experience, hard work and foresight, he has helped diversify and increase the tax base for streets, education and public services.

Columbia County will continue to grow. It is inevitable. We can choose to ignore it or we can choose to embrace it with skilled leaders who understand the challenges and opportunities this growth presents. Over the last four years, Tony Hyde has proven his ability to manage growth time and time again. He understands that controlled growth is the key to the livability of Columbia County.

Tony Hyde will bring experienced government leadership to Columbia County at its most critical time of need. He will continue his commitment to his constituents as he helps shape the future of our county. Now, more than ever, we need Tony Hyde to lead us into the future.

Janice M. Richard
Scappoose

Or how about a gift certificate for a massage from Summer Country Massage or Massage Therapy? A gift certificate to the Health Habit would also make a wonderful gift.

Would someone on your list enjoy a night's stay at the Vernonia Inn, with a hot tub?

There are also wonderful restaurants, Western Auto, Vernonia 76 and Triple S Saw Shop, to name just a few.

So, think twice before leaving Vernonia to fight the crowds and do your holiday shopping. There is so much available right here. Just use your imagination.

Susan Hult
Vernonia

Pulliam's experience useful to the county

To the Editor:

I would like to urge voters to support Paul Pulliam for County Commissioner. Paul will bring a wide range of skills and experiences developed from over 20 years of community service, that will make him an excellent commissioner. What impresses me most, however is that Paul is running for Commissioner simply because he loves Columbia County and wants to work to make it even a better place.

What also makes Paul effective is his willingness to listen and work with people of all stripes. Paul believes in the team approach to support good ideas that result in solutions that work for Columbia County. Paul Pulliam will be a Commissioner we can be proud of.

Lois Smith
Deer Island

Fellow councilors endorse Scott Burge

To the Editor:

During the past couple of years, we have had the privilege to work with Scott Burge on the Scappoose City Council. He has been a tremendous asset not only to our city, but the community as a whole. He is honest, diligent, knowledgeable and creative in solving the problems facing Scappoose.

As a county commissioner, we believe Scott will work hard for the people of Columbia County. He will listen to and be available for the people and work to solve the problems facing this county. He will bring a positive, professional attitude to the county and will treat his fellow commissioners and county staff with respect and dignity. We can only think of one down side to electing Scott Burge as our next county commissioner: It's a true loss for the city of Scappoose, but a great gem for our entire county.

Other commissioners praise work of Hyde, recommend re-election Hyde is an asset to Columbia County

To the Editor:

Disasters can serve to illustrate a leader's true worth. Tony Hyde was the Mayor of Vernonia when the 1996 flood devastated much of the city. I was a State Representative at the time and had the privilege of representing Vernonia. This is when I really got to know Tony. It will be a long time before the citizens of Vernonia will forget the efforts he made on their behalf in organizing the flood relief efforts, which included finding state and federal dollars to help put his city back on its feet. He turned out to be a remarkable asset for the people of Vernonia.

He has also proven himself as a County Commissioner. I have worked with him, first as a State Representative and now, as a Tillamook County Commissioner. I can tell you, without any reservation, that Tony Hyde is highly respected by both legislators and commissioners from other counties. He is known as a hard working commissioner who understands and finds solutions to complex issues. He has earned my respect and your vote.

Tim Josi
Tillamook

Hyde is a strong and persuasive voice

To the Editor:

Commissioner Tony Hyde is an outstanding leader that I have had the pleasure to work with on the Board of Directors of the Association of Oregon Counties. He is a strong and persuasive voice for Columbia County. He rings loud and clear on issues like livability, education, transportation and natural resources.

Tony Hyde has a way of quickly making you aware of the needs of Scappoose, Vernonia, St. Helens and the outlying areas. His knowledge of highways, specific needs of local citizens and the Endangered Species Act, make him stand out.

I hope the citizens of Columbia County realize what a hard-working and committed commissioner they have in Tony Hyde. I heartily encourage you to re-elect Tony Hyde this November.

Bill Kennemer
Clackamas County
Commissioner

Please join us, the members of the Scappoose City Council, in voting for Scott Burge for County Commissioner.

Glenn Dorschler
Gary Garner
Floyd Pittard
Jim Huffman
Mark Parsons

Questions platform of Constitution Party

To the Editor:

I have recently had the opportunity to read the year 2000 platform of the Constitution Party, which has a candidate running for out seat in the legislature in the form of Bob Ekstrom.

The party's platform is stunning. It begins by restricting membership in the party to actively professing Christians. It goes on immediately to attack a woman's right to have a safe abortion in a hospital or medical clinic instead of a back alley. It would abolish the Oregon Health Plan and all other government assistance to low-income families and leave the fate of the poor to charity. It would eliminate all federal aid

to Oregon, including everything from food stamps to federal highway money. It would prohibit government from interfering with the forms of marriage found in the bible. It supports only the original text of the constitution and the Bill of Rights and their original meaning back in 1789. Apparently, the part does not support the 13th Amendment (abolishing slavery, 1865), the 14th Amendment (equal protection of the laws, 1866), the 15th Amendment (right of non-white citizens to vote, 1869), the 17th Amendment (right of citizens to vote for their federal senators, 1913) and the 19th Amendment (right of women to vote, 1920). The platform also explicitly demands the repeal of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, section 2, of which makes it a crime to attack someone to prevent them from voting. And there is quite a bit more.

Voters considering the local Constitution Party candidate might want to have a look at the Platform and ask some questions.

Michael F. Sheehan
Scappoose

POLICY ON LETTERS

The INDEPENDENT welcomes readers' letters and will publish as many as possible. All letters must be signed, including those sent by fax, and include a verifiable address and telephone number, which will not be printed except at the writer's request. Unsigned letters will not be published.