

The INDEPENDENT

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Opinion

No surprises in balloting

Unofficial final results of the November 5 election showed 9,408 Columbia County voters opposing Measure 5-109, the county-wide law enforcement levy, with 7,572 voting in favor and another 727 who skipped that decision. These numbers indicate a potential for future approval, but only if the measure includes a more frugal approach and language that specifies just how much would be used for patrol deputies and how much for jail operations. Citizens want to be sure that money approved for patrol deputies can be used *only* for that purpose; they are not interested in supporting an open-ended approach that would allow the funds to be taken from patrol and used for the jail or for court protection. Those who are responsible for the overall administration of any agency, understandably prefer some flexibility but, given public apprehension about how the funds are spent, may have to more closely define just how people's taxes can be used—and how they can't.

There were only two other local money measures on the ballot, both in the Scappoose area. One was a bond issue to refurbish schools, the other was a three-year tax levy for the library district; both measures were defeated by voters.

Nearly 71 percent of registered voters in Columbia County voted, about the same as statewide figures, and, with a couple of exceptions, the results were also just about the same.

Complete Columbia County returns may be seen on page 17.

Bitten by the technology bug...

After working for the past year with a great need for upgraded computer equipment, The Independent finally bit the bullet and made those upgrades. While there are always some glitches (to use a technical term) when new and old equipment, operating systems and software are combined, this particular experience has been horrendous (another technical term)!

For this late paper, I apologize. I think most of the problems have been worked out and we should be back on track with the next issue.

However...if I ever start talking about "upgrading" again, will someone please tie me to a tree until I forget about it?

Noni Andersen

© * ☆ #
MY CANDIDATE
LOST AND THE
MEASURE I
DIDN'T WANT
PASSED!

* * # @
I SHOULD
HAVE READ
AND STUDIED
THE VOTERS
GUIDE BETTER!

☆ @ * #
I GUESS
I CAN'T
COMPLAIN,
I DIDN'T
EVEN
VOTE!



ELECTION RESULTS

Ike Says...

By Dale Webb, member
Nehalem Valley Chapter Izaak Walton League



The hunting Gods shone on me opening day of deer season this year. I had my choice of seven bucks, plenty of time to choose and frosty cold weather in which to field dress my choice. By 8:20 a.m. the hammer was tripped and the knife was in action. My only regret was that I didn't get to hunt more, in fact I was thinking of not shooting, but the biggest buck of the bunch forced my hand by trying to run over me.

The local hunting scene has been slow through the fourth week of October, partly due to weather, gate closures and lack of deer. The action should have picked up during the remainder of the season with a heavy lean toward older bucks. I have kept score on the size of bucks taken and, as of the 28th, it was an even split between forked horns and three points or better. I would expect by the end of the season the ratio will be 70 percent older bucks, which is close to what happened last year. This again points out the problem in the local area, which is a low deer recruitment rate. The primary cause of this low rate of recruitment is the hair loss syndrome that has been with us for about five years. Of course, ODF&W adding about 500 antlerless kills to the cause is not helping the situation. I believe after this year, ODF&W will be forced to reconsider its Blacktailed deer management. Many biologists to the south of us are very concerned about this

disease and are pushing for reforms.

By the time you read this article, most gate issues will have been resolved. Here are the gating issues as I see them for Elk season:

Longview Fibre – Most gates will be open, with the exception of active logging areas, areas that have experienced vandalism and the Columbia River Mainline during weekdays. The mainline will be open on weekends. Longview Fibre was the first to open their gates during deer season and the company has a pro-hunter attitude; please foster this relationship by being a responsible hunter.

Olympic Resource Management – There is a new twist this year, with only three gates...Crooked Creek, Kauppi (off Burn Road) and Pebble Creek... scheduled to be open during Elk season. ORM has posted maps at local businesses showing locations and times. The gates will be opened one hour before daylight and closed one hour after dark. Carry your cell phone (ATT is the only one that works in this area.) because, if you get locked in, you will have to call the number on the back of the gate to get out. Calling several hours after the gates are closed will probably be frowned on. Do not leave a vehicle inside the locked gates as a way of beating the morning crowds, it may be towed. ORM is trying this new system to see how it works. Since most vandalism occurs after dark, this should curb the activity. It should also cut down on hunting after dark, which is a major problem in our area. I feel the one-hour-after-dark gate closure may be a little too early, but we will see what happens. I expect the morning rush will be interesting also, from a hunter's perspective. I will

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