

## Letters

### From page 3

the Board of Commissioners. Higgins presented the final text amendments to the original Columbia County Periodic Review Work Program Task IV, Goal 5 Sensitive Lands, which could be viewed on the County's website, <<http://www.co.columbia.or.us/LandUse/Planning/index.asp>>.

Mr. Higgins recommended the Board divide their recommendations, with Wildlife, Cultural, Historical being separated from the remainder. His reasoning was that each section would have to be appealed to different governmental authorities, if such appeals were made.

Much of the meeting ranged over a vast loose-leaf document, primarily concerning verbiage and definitions. The only real discussion occurred when Chairman VanNatta wanted to append documentation by government sources and agencies, recommendations, references, and agency correspondence with his father's business, plus documentation regarding the

importation of Roosevelt Elk to the area, and Columbia County cemetery plot locations for historical and cultural records. He wanted some relief for landowners with a definition of true migratory birds vs. non-migratory birds that previously migrated, but due to manmade environmental change, no longer do. He referenced Canada Geese in the Columbia River Basin. Board members Nelson and Pierce vigorously opposed addition of the data, believing it incorrect. VanNatta stated, "...be as it may, the historical references are there, free and available from government sources." He went on to say that he wanted the papers appended as a reference to the report so individuals can see historical truths. He added, "Allow people to enjoy their liberties and be governed by truth!"

Regarding the cemetery lots, Chairman VanNatta referenced the Cultural section of the recommendations, referred to a list of "lost" cemeteries in Columbia County, and provided a

table of contents edited by Judy Whipple and Betty Mayfield.

Board member Marvin MacDonald noted that in his own family's history, people were starving because of the unavailability of game to hunt due to the old growth timber. Board member Dennis Nelson noted the Indians of the Nehalem Valley burning sections of the forest in order to increase game populations while reading his own inclusion into the record.

When discussion concluded, Higgins suggested that two recommendations be presented to the Columbia County Board of Commissioners, the second section regarding approval of the cultural, historical, and big game recommendations.

The commission concurred.

I left the meeting feeling that Planning Commission members listened to Columbia County property owners during the June 18 meeting at Saint Helens High School. Property owners' views and observations were conclusive in their wish for no new regulations,

and got their desired response. Now, it goes to the Columbia County Board of Commissioners. They will meet at Clatskanie Middle School July 16 at 6:00 p.m., in Vernonia City Hall on July 22 at 6 p.m.,

and in St. Helens July 23 at 6 p.m. Please attend those meetings to see how your Commissioners feel about property owner rights.

Roger Grimsrud  
Vernonia

## In the Service

### John P. Allison Jr.

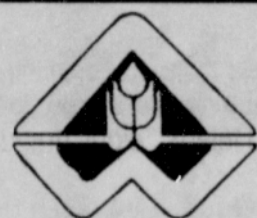
Air Force Airman 1st Class John P. Allison Jr. has arrived for duty at Fairchild Air Force Base, Spokane, Wash.

Allison is a bomber avionics systems apprentice with the 92nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. He has one year of military service.

He is the son of John P. Allison Sr. and Jana G. Basden of Vernonia.

The airman is a 2002 graduate of Vernonia High School.

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