

Letters

Questions priorities of Commissioners

To the Editor:

I was shocked to see in the last Spotlight that County Commissioners Joe Corsiglia and Tony Hyde voted to raise their own two salaries by more than 10.1 percent for a total of approximately \$13,000 per year. At the same time and for virtually the same amount of money they are proposing to eliminate the County's Veterans Services Office, which provides essential services to the county's 6500 veterans, claiming that they don't have the money to fund it,

Ike Says . . .

From page 2

ly distributed. Making small drives along side the gravel road provided lots of action. I used my big game hunting rifle most of the time. This makes for some very good practice, shooting offhand at targets at varying distances. Hitting a rabbit at over 100 yards builds one's shooting confidence to a new level.

The side roads still had some water sitting on them and are very slimy and, with the recent rains over east, I think things probably have gotten worse since we were there. We saw a lot of Antelope during our travels. Having been so wet recently, the grass was growing well and the desert was very green. We talked to a local rancher who said the late rains really saved their bacon, before that, things were looking bad. The Warner lakes are very low, though, since it takes snow pack to provide water to raise the water levels.

This rabbit trip kind of completed a circle for Dad and me. It was many years ago, I was probably around 12 years old, when that Dad and I went on our first rabbit trip. We made a big circle out around the east side of the Steen's. This year it was my turn to return the favor and I honestly believe we both enjoyed it just as much as that first trip. So get out there, and build some memories!

Izaak Walton League, Nehalem Valley Chapter meets on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Call 503-429-7193 for location of meeting.

a Memorial Day surprise for veterans.

It should be noted that Rita Bernhard, the third commissioner, voted against the proposed pay raise, given the problem of the Veterans Office funding and other critical issues in the county.

Voters might want to call Commissioners Corsiglia and Hyde (503-397-4322) about the big raises and Veterans Office funding.

**Michael F. Sheehan
Scappoose**

Appreciates efforts of local PTA president

To the Editor:

I wanted to thank Camrin Eyrrick, President of the Vernonia Community PTA for the "Thank You Celebration"

potluck held on May 19. There was a "Calling of All Parents" in the monthly newsletter and I was one of two moms that showed up! I'm not sure if parents didn't read the article or if they just forgot to note it on their calendars, but the food and desserts were great.

The meeting was very emotional as the President gave all her help a gift of appreciation and addressed how their support carried PTA through the struggle of our PTA President almost dying in October. I'm happy to see she's pulled through and is going strong. Her leadership is outstanding and I appreciated her sincerity and thoughtfulness.

Some of the concerns were participation from a representative from Head Start and Mist

School.

My daughter was ecstatic to hear some of the raised funds would be going towards more swings at WGS, which are desperately needed as my daughter had always comments on how she never gets a turn on the swings.

The PTA makes improvements for our children and they are dedicated in the fund raising to make all kids happier. I hope there will be more parent participation for this great organization for our kids.

**Virginia D. DeBeikes
Vernonia**

More on the value of trees in our lives

To the Editor:

I don't want to make a stink
But I have another way to

think.

The trees that once were high on the hill

Were cut down for someone's view to fill.

The trees that held the hill in place

Now are gone-soon mudslides will race.

The slides cause havoc for those below

That you on the hills will never know.

We all want and enjoy trees in our backyards

For they are our Sentinels and our Guards!

Remember it only takes a year for wheat to grow

But trees take much longer – as everyone knows!!

So while you enjoy your home with a view

Please remember those down below you!!

**Betty (Mrs. Carl) Holsey
Vernonia**

Salem Scene

By Representative Brad Witt
Oregon District 31



This week I would like to share House Bill 3486 with you. HB 3486, introduced one week ago, is one of the fastest moving bills in the House of Representatives. It will make information about predatory

sex offenders available to the public via the Internet. If the bill becomes law, Oregon will join 48 other states that make this information readily available in the interest of public safety.

My interest in this bill goes back several months to a series of discussions with Gregg Mills of Astoria. Mr. Mills had contacted me out of concern that Oregon law made it exceedingly difficult, if not nearly impossible, to determine the identities and residences of sexual offenders. Mr. Mills, like many other supporters of HB 3486, is convinced that an awareness of who and where the predators are enables individuals, parents and local neighborhoods to avoid contact between predators and potential victims.

Late last week, Representative Jerry Krummel (R-Wilsonville) approached me to see if I would be interested in co-sponsoring a bill on this subject. After Representative Krummel and I discussed the problem, it became apparent that an internet posting would address our concerns and those of Mr. Mills. Furthermore, it is fortuitous that Representative Krummel and I sit on the House Information management and Technology and that our Chair, Representative John Dallum (R-The Dalles) shares our concerns on this subject. With HB 3486 being a natural fit for our Committee, Chair Dallum scheduled the bill's first hearing just one week after the bill's introduction.

Our House Committee will be very careful in developing the wording of HB 3486. Civil liberties of those who may have committed a sexual

indiscretion in the past, but who no longer pose a threat to either society or personal safety, will be protected. That is why the bill limits Internet disclosure to predatory sex offenders. According to Washington County Sheriff Rob Gordon, President of the Oregon Sheriffs Association, predatory sex offenders are the worst of the worst. They have committed the most abhorrent sex crimes and have the highest propensity of re-offending. Even worse, their risk of re-offending increases over time. That is why I am a sponsor of HB 3486.

HB 3486 will make the following information about predatory sex offenders available over the Internet: Name and address; physical description including age, height, weight and eye and hair color; type of vehicle; conditions of parole, probation, post-prison supervision or conditional release; description of primary and secondary targets; method of offending; picture; name and phone number of the parole or probation officer; and if a predator is not under supervision, contact information for the State Police.

There are over 16,000 registered sex offenders in Oregon. Each year, we add another 800 persons to the sex offender register. To call this a problem is an understatement. Hopefully, HB 3486 will provide a modicum of protection against the very worst of these offenders.

I want to express my appreciation to Mr. Gregg Mills, Representative Jerry Krummel, Chair John Dallum and all the bill's supporters for making HB 3486 possible.

Monday and Wednesday are the best days to make an appointment to see me in Salem. If you happen to be Salem and have not made an appointment, stop by and see if I am in the office. I try to leave Salem early on Friday for meetings in our District. You can always contact me by calling 503-986-1431 or by e-mailing me at rep.bradwitt@state.or.us to set-up a late Friday afternoon or weekend meeting near your neighborhood.

Thanks to Vernonia Police for their help

To the Editor:

I just wanted to thank the Vernonia Police Dept. for returning one of the three missing heirloom seashells (about a foot long each).

Hopefully, the person who took them will find it in their heart to return them and put them back on my front porch.

Hurray! to the Vernonia Police Dept.

**Virginia D. DeBeikes
Vernonia**

County deputies help whenever they can

To the Editor:

A tip O' the hat to the two Columbia County deputies that responded to my emergency. Allow me to explain.

An injured coyote wandered up from the woods and laid itself down just a few feet from my window. After I rescued it from the jaws of my four dogs, I stood back and realized that the animal was in dire straits. She was on her back, with her legs twisted about. It was obvious that she was in severe pain.

She needed to be euthanized; indeed a profound situation for a city boy like me. Even after this was done, what to do with the body? Bringing it to the city dump is illegal. I couldn't bury it on my property; my dogs

Please see page 24