Many county and state positions will be on May 20 Primary ballot

The May 20 Primary Election ballots for Oregon voters will include far more choices than the Republican and Democratic presidential candidates. Two Columbia County Commissioner positions will be on the ballot, as well as the position of Columbia County Sheriff. Two additional county offices on the ballot are Justice of the Peace and Treasurer.

Three candidates have filed for the non-partisan office of sheriff being vacated by retiring Sheriff Phil Derby.

Columbia County Sheriff

Robert W. Crain, Jr., a Columbia County Code Enforcement Officer was a corrections officer with Clackamas County. He also worked for the Hillsboro Police Department and the Las Vegas Metro Police Department. He attended James Madison High School, and studied law enforcement at both Mt. Hood Community College and Portland Community College. He is a resident of St. Helens.

Jeff Dickerson is an Oregon State Police (OSP) Senior Trooper stationed in St. Helens. He started with the OSP in 1988 and, in 1999, was also appointed as a Deputy U.S. Marshall. Dickerson attended Scappoose High School, El Camino Community College in California, and the University of Oregon, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in journalism. He is a resident of St. Helens.

Gerald “Gerry” T. Simmons has been Columbia County Undersheriff since 2000. He started with the Columbia County Sheriff’s Office (CCSO), in 1978, as a reserve officer. Since then, he has worked in both corrections and patrol, as well as being a detective for narcotics and other crimes. He is also supervisor of the CCSO Posse. He attended Clatskanie High School and Clatsop Community College, served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1969-1977, and in the USMC Reserve 1982-1994. He is a resident of Clatskanie.

Columbia County Commissioner

Columbia County Commissioner Positions 1 and 3 will be on the ballot; these are partisan positions. Two Democrats and two Republicans are vying for Position 1 in the Primary Election. There are only two candidates for Position 3, one Democrat and one Republican.

Position 1

Incumbent Democrat Joe Corsiglia is seeking a third term on the board of commissioners. A resident of St. Helens, he was first elected in 2000. He also served as a St. Helens council member, and was on the planning commission while

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Address change can be mailed in

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and need to inform the Columbia County Elections Department of any change of address, even if it is temporary. Ballots will not be forwarded. Change of address can be done by mail with a registration card postmarked no later than April 29. If the card is not received by May 2, it will be necessary to go to the courthouse to update your address and request a ballot.

Registered voters who want to change party affiliation (Democrat, Republican, etc.) also have until April 29, but the change must be received in the Elections office by that date. A postmark is not valid for changing party affiliation. Oregon does not have cross-party voting so, to vote for a particular party’s candidate you must register as affiliated with that party.

Any registered voter who does not receive a ballot by May 7 has until 8:00 p.m. election day (May 20) to obtain a ballot, although it will be necessary to go to the courthouse in St. Helens.

Center closes but FEMA and SBA are still available

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has been visited nearly 2,300 times.

“We have worked hand-in-hand with Vernonia to help them recover from last December’s devastating flood. Now is the time to allow the community to focus on the long-term needs of disaster victims,” said Abby Kershaw, state coordinating officer.

Since the federal disaster was declared on December 8 last year, 3,569 Oregon residents have registered with FEMA. Individuals, families and businesses in Oregon have received more than $21 million in assistance to date.

Individuals affected by the storms and flooding may receive grants and loans to cover disaster-related costs such as home repairs and temporary housing.

State and local governments, federally recognized tribes, and nonprofit agencies providing essential services can be reimbursed for disaster-related costs for emergency response, debris removal and repair to roads, utilities, public buildings, parks and facilities.

Below is a snapshot of the disaster as of the close of business March 13:

- $6,147,485 in individual assistance approved;
- $11,289,200 in low-interest disaster loan assistance approved to homeowners, renters and businesses of all sizes;
- $3,575,395 in public assistance obligated;
- 3,569 individuals registered for assistance;
- 3,915 individuals visited Disaster Recovery Centers;
- 2,027 home inspections completed.

Individuals with questions about their applications are urged to call the FEMA helpline at 1-800-621-3362 (TTY 1-800-462-7585). Applicants also may update their contact information by phone or online at www.fema.gov .

Anyone with questions about disaster loan applications with the Small Business Administration (SBA) should call SBA at 1-800-659-2955 or visit the SBA Website at www.sba.gov/serv ices/disasterassistance.

Goal to provide temporary homes for all who have requested them

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“It is important to us to house these families as close to home as possible,” said Oregon Governor Kulongoski. “Oregon Emergency Management has evaluated the results which show that the levels are similar to those found in newly constructed wood frame houses.”

Families displaced from their homes since the December floods will occupy the mobile homes temporarily while their homes are rebuilt and they rebuild their lives.

Testing unoccupied units before releasing them for occupancy is the latest in a range of proactive measures FEMA is taking in response to recent formaldehyde findings by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

FEMA’s Oregon field office is testing a second set of 13 homes and is planning to order more homes from a FEMA staging area. All new units coming into Oregon will have already been tested. The first 21 mobile homes to complete the testing and be accepted by the state will be located in the new mobile home park on Maple Ave. in the heart of Vernonia. (Seven have arrived and 6 are on the way.)

“This has been a long road for the residents of Vernonia,” said Glen Sachtleben, federal coordinating officer with FEMA. “The patience shown by the town and residents is inspiring.”

FEMA is negotiating with another land owner in Vernonia to create more mobile home sites. “We won’t quit until we place all eligible families who requested a mobile home,” said Sachtleben.