

Commissioner Position 3 candidates will face-off in November

From page 13

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3. What do you think the commissioner's

job or responsibility should be?

Hyde – Manage all departments and the \$50 million plus budget. I also think we're responsible for economic development ad to manage outside influences as liaisons to both the state and the federal government. If you are not at the table, you are part of the menu and we need to be at the table. There have been numerous times there has been a piece of legislation that would have negatively affected us and we have been able to testify and get that changed. That's the kind of responsibility we have. It's also our responsibility to be available to the public, whether it's about a pot-hole or a land use issue.

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4. What improvements would you like to see in county government?

Hyde – I would love to see a better information technology system and more transparent government. Both require staffing and I'd love to see that be available. I'd love to see an increased capacity for healthcare, better roads, increased road deputies in rural areas.

Public test of vote counting equipment

The public certification test of Columbia County's vote counting equipment will be on Tuesday, May 13, for the May 20 primary election.

Testing will begin at 2:00 p.m. in the County Elections Department at the courthouse in St. Helens. The public is welcome to attend the certification.

Ballot drop sites in the Nehalem Valley

Ballot drop sites for area voters who do not mail their ballots will be as follows, starting May 2nd:

- Vernonia Library during regular hours, plus extended hours May 20 from noon to 8:00 p.m.

- Mist-Birkenfeld Rural Fire District Office during regular office hours. Hours for May 20 will be 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.



Pat Zimmerman

Zimmerman – A focus on appropriate economic development, such as small to medium sized industries and businesses. There is fiber optic on Hwy. 30 but we're not hooking into it. Open communications, it would be cheaper to put everything on the web then to have to have clerks find everything and copy it. Use technology. I'd like to see evening meetings, people should not have to take off work to protect your interests.

5. Nehalem Valley feels it gets little in the way of county services. What would you do to change this perception?

Hyde – I am a Columbia County Commissioner and serve all ends of this county without prejudice but certainly my living in Vernonia helps.

Zimmerman – Show up, be there. I'd come to city council and school board meetings, participate and be part of the community. Don't promise what you can't deliver, like don't promise a four lane highway to Scappoose. Promise what you can deliver.

6. Anything you'd like to tell our readers?

Hyde – Four years ago I said, "I'm not done," and there is still work for me to do.

Zimmerman – I think that it's time to have a new look at many of the things the county is doing. I think I'll bring a lot of energy and a different view. I've been a port commissioner so I'm aware of commissions and budgets. I'm on several local and state committees and have experience dealing with state and local officials. In my career life, I've been responsible for budgets up to \$80 million and have managed 45-50 engineers. Also, I've been named by the state as a State Health Insurance Benefits Assistance (SHIBA) volunteer to work with seniors.

Tips for surviving teen party times

It's the season of the year when parental gray hairs increase as parents worry about their teen-aged children's party activities. From graduation celebrations to the beginning of the summer pool party season, as the school year winds down the teen party scene gets more lively.

While it's natural for parents to worry about their teenagers activities, especially when off partying, setting some simple rules and guidelines can reduce both teen and parental stress.

One basic rule should be that you are given the name, address, phone number and parent names for any party your teen will be attending. If you don't know the family, call the parents to make sure an adult will be present and no drugs or alcohol will be available. Make your call an offer to help and you can get your questions answered through a casual conversation without embarrassing your teen.

You also want to clarify driving arrangements and restrictions. Riding with someone who's been drinking or taking drugs is always forbidden. In such cases your teen should know they can call you at any time for a ride, or that you'll cover cab fare home, and that there will be no repercussions or blame.

You want your teenager to understand that he or she is really only responsible for himself or herself. Let your teen understand that there won't be punishment just because others at a party get out of control and make trouble.

Your teens should also agree to contact you should a party's location be changed. Suggest excuses they can use to call ("I forgot my key") to help them keep from being embarrassed by checking in, but they need to let you know when there's a change.

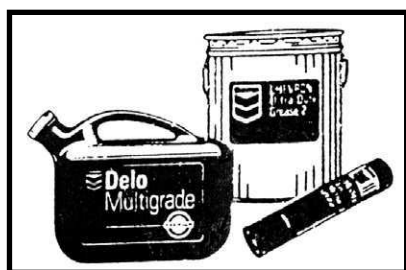
If your teen wants to sleep over at a friend's, make it clear

Please see page 23

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