

Letters

From page 3

Her Republican opponent has been in office 12 years, pursuing multi-billionaire corporations and complicated, risky financial schemes. There's remarkably little to show for it.

In these dire economic times, Pat Zimmerman's 30 years' experience in the com-

puter industry – through boom and bust cycles – gives her the knowledge and discipline to make the needed tough budget decisions. Pat will lead the county in working smarter and more efficiently, saving taxpayer dollars.

Please join me in supporting Pat Zimmerman as our new

County Commissioner.

Patty Brockman
Vernonia

Renew 9-1-1 to keep outstanding service

To The Editor:

As your elected representatives to the Columbia 9-1-1

Communications District, we represent every community within our county. We rely on expert advice from the 9-1-1 Advisory Board, made up of the chiefs of every law enforcement agency, every fire district and every emergency medical service, as well as the sheriff and county emergency manager. Together, we are working every day to improve 9-1-1 emergency response. We always focus on our main goal: to provide the best, most efficient and effective 9-1-1 emergency response possible.

We're very proud of our District's award winning 9-1-1 staff. They are truly professional and operate very efficiently – keeping a priority on efficiency without sacrificing any 9-1-1 call service, dispatch or emergency service coordination.

They also help us keep our promises. For example, our 9-1-1 Call Center was built for about 1/3 the cost for other call centers, which allowed the district to implement Enhanced 9-1-1 technology – that is the equipment that tells the 9-1-1 call taker the location of you, the caller. The bottom line is even faster dispatching once

your call is received.

Another important promise we've been able to keep to the voters is securing funding and installation of a countywide microwave "backbone" voice and data radio system – through other funding sources, not District tax revenues. From day one, that system has meant safer, more reliable public safety communications for every part of the county. We are able to do much more with less, even though activity levels have quadrupled since the District was formed by voters in 1989.

As a result of this effective management, the request for renewal of the district's Five-Year Operating Funds will actually be at a slightly lower rate than voters approved in 1998, and at the same rate over 70% of voters approved in 2004. That means that the tax rate will stay the same as it has been for the past five years, even while our 9-1-1 emergency dispatch reliability and service continues to increase and improve.

Our 9-1-1 District is not requesting new taxes, simply a renewal of the Operating Funds to maintain our essential and reliable 9-1-1 service at the same level it is now.

This is a team effort. We take our responsibility very seriously because we know you depend on 9-1-1 as a vital service for your children, parents, grandparents, friends and co-

Please see page 23



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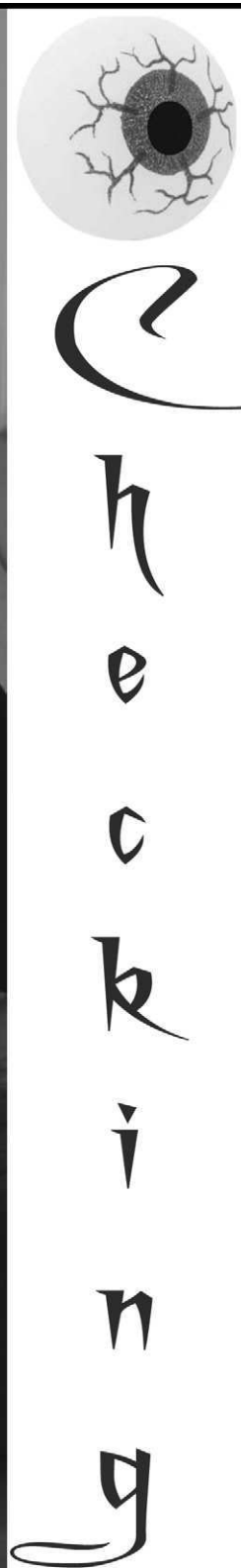
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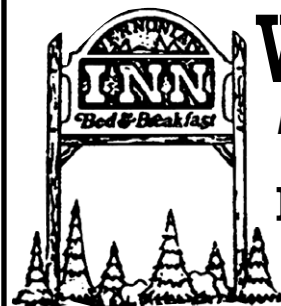
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* To receive 6.01% Annual Percentage Yield (APY) on balances up to \$25,000, you must meet these 4 easy monthly† requirements: 1) 12 cleared debit card transactions; 2) one direct deposit or electronic auto debit (ACH); 3) one login to Internet Banking; and 4) active enrollment in eStatements. Balances over \$25,000 will receive 0.50% APY. If monthly requirements are not met, you will receive .10% APY that month. APYs effective 3/1/08 and subject to change at any time. Fees may reduce earnings. Membership requirements apply.

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