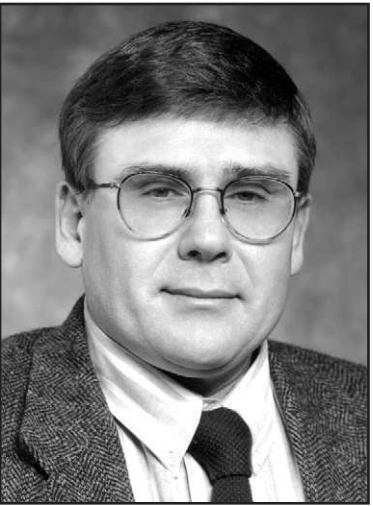


# Two incumbents are challenged for Vernonia school board seats

From page 1

Amy Elton Cieloha is challenging Krahn for Position 1.

Cieloha, born and raised in Vernonia, said "This is where I come from; I have an investment in the community." She has served for five years on the PTA, on the site council for two years, is involved with 4-H, Camp Wilkerson and serves as a classroom volunteer weekly, and was a classified substitute for over a year. In addition to being a 'questioning voice' on the board, Cieloha hopes to



Jim Krahn

help facilitate more community involvement in meetings and to foster more communication and respect between the board and the community.

Cieloha has two children in grade school and another who will be there in a few years. She also operates a preschool in Vernonia.



Amy Elton Cieloha

Two candidates filed for 47J board Position 5.

Incumbent Cari Levenseller, who has been on the 47J board of directors for 10 years, is

seeking another term.

Levenseller chose to run again, she said, because "I feel very strongly that we started



Cari Levenseller

this new school project and we should continue. I think it would slow the process down to bring in new people at this juncture of the project. I have a lot of experience and was here the last time we tried to pass a bond for a new school. I want to see the project through."

Levenseller has five children in the Vernonia schools.

Angie Fetherston Rhodes, who is challenging Levenseller for Position 5, was on the school board for about eight months. She explained that she



Angie Fetherston Rhodes

left to avoid a conflict, because she took a position with the district as a classified substitute, but is no longer subbing, and would like to serve on the board again to put her previous board experience to good use.

She has been on the district's site council for two years, volunteers in the classroom weekly, is a volunteer at the Bee Bucks store and is involved with Girl Scouts. She has two children in Washington Grade School.

Rhodes was raised here and graduated from Vernonia High School. [I am] "active in the district due to my kids. I have already built relationships and am now ready to return to more involvement by serving on the board," she said.

## Rescued dogs needing new homes

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The prior owner released custody of the animals to Columbia County Animal Control, which allows staff to begin the process of finding homes for the dogs. Adoption applications are being accepted without a fee, on a first-come basis.

Because the dogs have somewhat of a pack behavior, they will need homes with fenced yards, outside shelter, and understanding and knowledgeable owners. Each applicant will be asked a few questions to assure that they understand and have the resources to care for one of these animals. Shelter staff will determine whether or not the dogs are a good match for the potential adopter.

The shelter's goal is to find the animals permanent homes. It would be harder on these already neglected animals to be returned to the shelter if an adopter finds them beyond their skill level.

The shelter also has a full selection of other adoptable dogs. If you are considering adopting an animal, stop by the shelter. It is located in St. He-

lens at 2084 Oregon Street. It is open Monday-Friday, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Saturdays from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

## Court ruling on County measure

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cies to suspend licenses and permits not issued by the county.

The ruling noted that other elements ignored existing statutes and the autonomy of other political entities,

A statement from Columbia County Citizens for Human Dignity noted that, while pleased with the ruling, "...we realize the enormous failures with our existing immigration system [and] hope the decision will allow communities that have been deeply divided over the immigration issue to find common ground and work together."

"It's time to direct our frustrations about the immigration issue where it belongs: on the federal government's responsibility to carry out meaningful immigration reform," said Marcy Westerling, Director of the Rural Organizing Project in Scappoose.

## Buy first home, earn tax credit

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (aka the Stimulus Bill) authorizes a tax credit of up to \$8,000 for qualified first time home buyers who purchase a principal residence between January 1 and December 1, 2009.

The purchase date is the date of closing and title transfer.

The tax credit is equal to 10 percent of the home's purchase price, up to a maximum of \$8,000, and is refundable even if the taxpayer has little or no tax liability. For example, if a qualified home buyer had a federal income tax liability of \$5,000 and had tax withholding of \$4,000, he would owe the IRS \$1,000. If that same taxpayer qualified for the \$8,000 home buyer tax credit, he would receive a check for \$7,000 (\$8,000 minus the \$1,000 owed).

A first-time home buyer is defined as a buyer who has not owned a principal residence during the three-year period prior to the purchase. For married taxpayers, the law uses the home-ownership history of both spouses.

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