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Letters

Chicago kid learned newspapers' worth

To the Editor:

I grew up in Chicago, a place where politics are viewed as sport. You could always tell a person's political affiliation by the paper he carried; *The Tribune* (the Republicans) and *Sun-Times* (the working or middle class).

I carried the *Sun-Times*, I worked long hours and had little time to follow what my elected officials were up to and the *Sun-Times* was always there to tell the truth, even though they ruffled the feathers of politicians and government agencies. *The Tribune* was also there to tell us everything was alright and that there were no worries, as our officials were doing their best for us.

I am glad to have *The Independent* looking out for the working class who work long hours and cannot make it to city meetings and are unable to get answers on their own.

If you want to support local business, do as I do and subscribe to *The Independent* and get the facts from a paper that is unafraid to report the truth.

I also enjoyed the April 1st Fools page, which would of made Mike Royko and Studs Terkel laugh.

**Mike Spry
 Vernonia**

Great turnout made clean-up a success

To the Editor:

Many, many thanks to all of you who turned out for Vernonia Pride's clean up day. We had approximately 160 volunteers.

We accomplished some of our goals, the Boy Scouts planted close to 150 trees and plants, the new fire rings for Anderson Park were set in, bark was spread around the play structure at Anderson, some of the moss between the bricks up town was removed, and general litter was picked up in some areas.

A lot of prescription drugs were turned in, and if you missed this opportunity, they will be doing this again at a later date.

We also want to thank all the people who donated the food for our lunch, who come through for us year after year;

Sentry Market for the hot dogs and water, Reser's for the salads, Frito Lay for the chips, and Franz for the hot dog buns and breakfast rolls.

Once again, thanks to all of you who participated in any way, and hope to see you all again next year.

**DeLoris Webb
 Vernonia Pride**

Thanks for making D.C. trip possible

To the Editor:

I'd like to thank everyone who helped me go to Washington, D.C. It was truly a once in a lifetime experience. All the people that helped me by donating bottles and cans, buying baked goods, coming to the spaghetti dinner/bingo night and the generous cash donations – you have my gratitude.

I made many new friends and met lots of new people. My favorite things there were probably Williamsburg and Arlington National Cemetery. You have no idea how thankful I am. Thank you!

**Bridger Steward
 Vernonia**

Sykes is the leader our county needs

To the Editor:

Our family has known Shawna Sykes for many years and watched her develop as a leader. She is intelligent, compassionate in her interactions with others, generous with her time, and she cares deeply about what's good for Columbia County and its residents. Shawna knows our county and its assets and will work hard to create a better future for us. There are a lot of people in this race, but Shawna Sykes is the kind of leader we need right now in Columbia County. I hope you join us in voting for Shawna Sykes this May 18th.

**Pete & Debbie McHugh
 Scappoose**

Moon has integrity, will work tirelessly

To the Editor:

Being one of the unsuspecting citizens of Columbia County and a true believer in the old adage, "If you have nothing to hide, you have nothing to fear"; why didn't those who Russ Moon supposedly brought to

their knees for less than admirable and professional activity, while holding positions in various departments in the City of Rainier stridently and loudly defend their positions? Russ Moon, on the other hand, is a man who will not let his character, integrity, or purpose of actions be impinged without an all-out battle to keep his name from tarnish, no matter what it takes.

For sixty of my seventy-four years spent in Rainier I have seen few men like Russ; those with moral conviction and desire to improve the standards and quality of life of those he serves. Many are the times he was called upon for help with difficult problems and always responded with interest and actions to get the job done. Lesser men stood by, hesitant and fearful to enter the fray.

If you want a man who will work tirelessly; attacking all problems with integrity and purpose for the good of Columbia county, then elect Russ Moon as Columbia County Commissioner #2. He will always give you a truthful, ethical account of his actions.

I urge all of you to give the "last good man standing" your vote on election day.

**Barbara J. Counts
 Rainier**

Heimuller is honest, he's the real deal

To the Editor:

Last night I had an enlightening experience. If every voter in Columbia County saw and heard what I did, they would vote to change their lives for the better.

I'm not politically inclined. I'm just a simple citizen who works hard, pays taxes and often wonders what planet the people who spend my hard-earned money are from.

Last night a friend asked me to attend a campaign meeting. Again, I don't "do" politics, but my friend is a wonderful person and I trust her instincts. I'm so thankful I did.

The meeting was for Henry Heimuller.

There I saw, for the first time in a very long time, someone I intuitively trust. He didn't sugar-coat one topic or avoid one conflict. He affirmed his deep connection to the county and

his conviction to improve anything and everything he can. All that and not one ulterior motive for wanting to be our county commissioner.

Henry Heimuller is the real deal. He is honest, genuine and has a true desire to make things better. Better for whom? Better for you and me; the common, everyday citizens who work hard, pay taxes and want to again believe in our leaders.

Join me in moving toward reclaiming our government. Join me in voting for Henry Heimuller.

**Jan Richard
 St. Helens**

Taylor is objective, aware, committed

To the Editor:

People who serve in public office deserve more credit and thanks than they usually receive. Promoting awareness and involvement with issues affecting local citizens is at times frustrating.

I know this from experience, working on a letter writing campaign to keep Bank of America in Rainier and helping to put on a Chamber of Commerce forum about LNG (liquefied natural gas) and the proposed project at Bradwood, Oregon.

Judith Taylor has demonstrated over the years her dedication, and should make a capable and knowledgeable county commissioner. Her efforts trying to promote local business with the Rainier Chamber of Commerce have been ongoing. When she ran the outdoor Saturday market, it was in good weather and bad.

As a Rainier City Councilor, Ms. Taylor has brought an objective perspective to the issues. The only woman, she has held her own ground, using logic and her ability to listen. She has served on the local planning commission, and her real estate background should also

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Policy on Letters

The INDEPENDENT will not publish letters with personal attacks on private citizens. Preference will be given to brief letters, 300 words or less.

All letters must be signed and include a verifiable address or phone number.