

Letters

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be most helpful.

In addition, she has a wonderful sense of humor and equally important, she walks her talk. Vote for whom you believe will do their best to represent us openly and responsibly. Judy has my vote.

Gloria G. MacKenzie
Rainier

Sykes understands economic growth

To the Editor:

Columbia County needs Shawna Sykes and her knowledge and experience in economic growth and development. Having served most recently as an economist, and earlier as a Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, she understands the need to focus on business development as a way of bringing jobs to this county. Shawna has a breadth of knowledge not shared by any of the other candidates for Columbia County Commissioner. Shawna Sykes is a leader. Resourceful and responsive, she has worked with the Ford Family Foundation and the Oregon Community Foundation as a volunteer. She has participated in many regional economic development efforts with great success and has developed an extensive network of individuals and resources she can draw upon. Shawna can hit the ground running. She can be an effective Commissioner much sooner than any other candidate for this office because her learning curve will be shorter. Shawna is smart, com-

mitted and is ready to go to work for Columbia County. She has my full support. I hope you'll join me in casting your vote for Shawna Sykes for Columbia County Commissioner, Position 2. She'll work for you.

Susan Conn
St. Helens

Moon is best choice for Commissioner

To the Editor:

EARTH NEEDS MOON.

We certainly hope that Russ Moon is elected to Columbia County Commissioner position #2. Russ Moon has been an active advocate of this community for over 30 years, teaching school, owning a small business, and serving since 2006 on the Rainier City Council.

Russ is a man of action, not words. He saved the city of Rainier over \$300,000 by finding a project manager to oversee the waste water treatment plant. He located a retired forester with 37 years of experience at Weyco Timber Division to manage Rainier's watershed, which cut the costs significantly.

Russ also spent a year leading the special "A" street project committee by setting up local meetings with ODOT, Portland Western Railroad, the governor's office, ODOT Rail, funding agencies, Clatskanie PUD, and community leaders and business owners.

Russ also researched a contract regarding the Enterprise Zone, reporting his findings to the City Council. The research resulted in a vote to honor the

agreement, which resulted in \$450,000 distribution of funds from the county to the city of Rainier. These funds were badly needed to repair the water treatment plant.

Russ is not afraid to change or eliminate things and people who are dishonest, or not in the best interest of his community. Russ does not subscribe to the "love the one you're with" philosophy, typical of so many politicians who agree and support whoever they are with at the time. Russ speaks his mind, and supports the position he feels is fair and honest. In a time when people and politicians in particular, are more concerned about their personal agendas than the needs of their community, Russ Moon is a consistent source of powerful and thoughtful ideas. Columbia County needs Russ Moon. Vote for him for Columbia County Commissioner position # 2.

Dick and Sue Drummond
Rainier

Sykes's background is best for County

To the Editor:

We are very fortunate to have so many candidates running for Columbia County Commissioner this year. Shawna Sykes stands out as the best qualified candidate for this position. Shawna has met with county staff, community organizations and citizens from the various communities throughout Columbia County. She understands the issues facing the county and has some great ideas on how to improve our county government's efficiency and accessibility to the resi-

dents. Shawna has a clear understanding of our local economy and fresh strategies on what we can do to grow jobs. Everyone knows what the issues are, but Shawna is the one with the skills, education, network of resources, and experience to make a difference for Columbia County. Vote Shawna Sykes for Columbia County Commissioner, Position 2.

Jeanette Sharinghousen
LaGrande,
formerly of Scappoose

Taylor was precise; Moon not even clear

To the Editor:

The [Vernonia] Independent recently interviewed candidates in the May 18 primary for Columbia County Commissioner. Two of the Democrats are Judith Taylor and Russ Moon – both members of the Rainier City Council.

One question posed to the candidates was: "What will you do to keep operating with less money?"

Judith Taylor offered the following:

"I know the budget is the biggest item right now. We have to prioritize...We need to look at the budget at a line item level and see what we can do with what we have and what we can do without."

Mrs. Taylor clearly recognizes the central concern facing Columbia County – the budget – and displays a clear understanding that the county commissioners need to scrutinize and prioritize any proposed expenditures.

Moon, on the other hand, responded somewhat Zen-like saying:

"I say what I mean and I mean what I say. I'm a good listener, researcher and problem solver. This is a good question. I don't have the information on

this, but would want to understand the budget better."

Translation of Moon's answer: "I haven't the foggiest notion how to be a county commissioner."

Also, a politician can often be defined by his or her campaign contributors. So it is with Russ Moon, a Democratic candidate for Columbia County Board of Commissioners.

His recent campaign financial reports list cash contributions of \$11,312 of which \$5,600 is from local and out-of-town businesses, contractors, or their employees.

An additional \$4,709 is from individuals contributing more than \$100, and \$1,003 in contributions of less than \$100.

The business and contractor campaign contributions include: \$2,150 from Teevin Bros

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