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Letters

Property dispute is still unresolved

To the Editor:

It has been nearly two years since the people voted to end the .38 per thousand hospital

tax. Over one year has passed since the prior hospital board, county commissioners, and the City of St. Helens jointly conspired behind closed doors to defraud the taxpayers in the hospital district out of millions.

The current board and their legal counsel have offered to mitigate the issue at least two times. Each time the usurper trustees (county commissioners) have adamantly refused mitigation and continue to pur-

sue their original backroom deal to give the property on Millard Road, valued in the millions, to the City of St. Helens for free.

The current health district board and their trustees have legitimate offers on the property but are unable to finalize the sale because the county commissioners are doing everything in their power to obstruct the sale of the property and the result is you, the taxpayers, being cheated out of tax money that is rightfully yours. This issue could end immediately if the county commissioners wished it to end; unfortunately this is not the case. The current board and their trustees want to let the taxpayers know that they are still determined and are working diligently to make sure the property is sold and the taxpayers credited the funds from the sale.

**Tammy Maygra, Chairperson
Columbia Health District
Deer Island**

Ed. Note: The letter writer is a candidate for County Commissioner Position 3.

Salem Scene

By Representative Brad Witt
Oregon District 31



As I mentioned in my last newsletter, here is an update on my second series of town halls to be held in the district on September 21st and 22nd. The topic this time is Coordinated Care Organizations, which replace the current managed care organizations, mental health organizations and dental care organizations serving the Medicaid/OHP populations.

You may think, "I'm not in either organization, so what does this have to do with me?" It affects you because we all pay for these services, and we should know what the plan is and how it is going to be carried out. One of the biggest com-

plaints I hear about local, state and federal governments is that people do not know how their money is being spent. Here is a great way to find out how we hope to reduce the cost of medical care in Oregon.

So, to that end, I have invited a panel of experts to explain this new effort, which is up and running in many locations throughout the state. Here is the schedule:

Friday, September 21

- 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Rainier Senior Center
48 West 7th Street

Saturday, September 22

- 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. Scappoose Senior Center, 33342 Meadow Drive
- 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. Linnton Community Center, 10614 NW St. Helens Road
- 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. Bethany Presbyterian Church, 15505 NW Springville Road,

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Bonamici Bulletin

By Representative Susanne Bonamici
1st Congressional District



After spending several weeks in Oregon, I am back at the nation's Capitol. During my time in Oregon I made several trips around the district to meet with constituents, talk with business leaders, and tour local businesses. These interactions are important and provide me with an opportunity to hear about critical issues directly from those I represent. Unfortunately, I wasn't able to meet with all of you, so here is a brief update about the work I've been doing.

I. LEGISLATION

- WISE Investment Act: I've introduced legislation to help connect local businesses with workforce training and community college programs to help close the skills gap.
- Marine Debris Emergency Act: This bipartisan bill, which I introduced just prior to the August district work period, will help expedite funds to clean up tsunami debris on the coast.
- Continuing Resolution: I voted in favor of a resolution to provide funding for the first six months of 2013.

II. TOWN HALL MEETINGS

In August I held five town hall meetings across the district – in Hillsboro, St. Helen's, McMinnville, Beaverton, and Astoria. Questions included concerns about growing the economy, Social Security, Medicare, immigration, educa-

tion, and the environment.

III. IN AND AROUND THE DISTRICT

Some of the events and meetings I attended in the First District included:

- A roundtable discussion for high-tech entrepreneurs with Leader Nancy Pelosi that I hosted with Congressman Earl Blumenauer.
- The Newberg-Dundee Bypass groundbreaking, a critical infrastructure project decades in the making.
- The Tongue Point Job Corps Graduation in Astoria, where I was honored to be the commencement speaker.
- A ribbon-cutting at Vernonia's new school, reopened with all the dedicated students, teachers, and community members who helped make it happen.

IV. OUTLOOK FOR THE UPCOMING VOTES

This week and next I'll be taking some important votes on our nation's budget. Because of the Budget Control Act, passed before my time in Congress, across the board cuts (called Sequestration) are set to take effect if Congress does not act. Many of my constituents have expressed significant concerns about the effect these potential cuts will have on critical social services, and I will be working hard with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to find a balanced and responsible approach that begins to tackle the debt and deficit, but does so in a way that does not impede economic growth or dismantle the safety net.

Your input and questions are always welcome, and I look forward to continuing these important conversations when I return home.

At least it's an idea

To the Editor:

The people who are responsible for the obscene raise in water and sewer costs should be required to provide rape counseling to those affected.

**Dee Stevens
Vernonia**

Thanks for support of UW Stuff the Bus

To the Editor:

The Vernonia Schools would like to thank everyone who donated and participated in the recent United Way Stuff the Bus campaign. Thanks to your donations, over \$1,700 worth of school supplies will be distributed to Vernonia students.

Sponsors included Vernonia
Please see page 14

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.