

Accuracy addressed

Letters to the Editor

<http://www.currypilot.com/Opinion/Letters/Letters-to-the-editor-Oct-23-2013>

I am writing in response to a recent letter to the editor that contained some blatantly inaccurate information.

In this letter it was stated that “two weeks after defeat of the May 21 Tax Levy commissioners went on a hiring spree.” The letter further stated that commissioners made “10 new hires including four deputies.” The truth is that since May of 2012 due mainly to turnover in staff, there were 45 vacancies of existing budgeted positions that needed to be filled. There was only one position that could be considered a new hire; even though it did address a longstanding vacancy. That was a position in the County Clerk’s office filled to immediately cope with the additional workload caused by the potential of three recall efforts as well as an initiative to adopt a home rule charter, a levy to fund the Port Orford Police Department, a fire truck levy for the City of Gold Beach, and Measure 8-73 for the county.

The recent letter to the editor also stated that amounts transferred from the Road Fund Reserve “could have been transferred a year earlier and double the amount” and then argued against supporting 8-73. The truth is that in order to assist the sheriff in maintaining his current level of law enforcement, Chapter 75 allows for the very restrictive use of road dollars for patrol and direct and indirect patrol related costs. The decision to use road funds was arrived at during lengthy and public budget process and it is likely that to use more of those funds in this circumstance could be a violation.

It is important to note that if Measure 8-73 passes, the Board of Commissioners will reduce the tax in any year in which Federal Safety Net related payments are received.

Dave Itzen,

Curry County commissioner

Harbor