

✓ Scotts Valley minister will seek council seat

By PAUL BEATTY

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SCOTTS VALLEY — A Baptist minister who for 27 years has led the battle against pornography and who describes himself as a strong fighter for free enterprise will run for the City Council June 3.

The Rev. Glennon Culwell, 59, will run as a strong ally of Councilman Phil Liberty who also says he'll seek election this year.

Liberty was appointed to the council in August 1983 when Councilman Rod Pulley resigned.

Liberty said he and Culwell will kick off their campaigns at City Hall at 8 a.m. Monday when election filings open. Filings are open from Feb. 10 through March 7.

"We'll see what support we have then," Liberty said.

It is expected the two will have a great deal of support from the business and development community which this political season is girding itself to unseat Councilwoman Barbara Leichter, a strong growth-control advocate.

Leichter said Wednesday that she will run again.

In 1982, Leichter won office on the wave of the controlled-growth movement in Scotts Valley and continues to have strong support from that movement.

She was joined in 1984 by colleagues Joe Miller and Roger Anderson and the three have made a major imprint on the city in the 1986 General Plan.

Industrially-zoned land was cut back and more open space and recreational lands zoned for the city.

It was one of the council majority's attempted actions last year that prompted Culwell to seek election.

"My intention to run all began with the riparian-corridor issue last summer and the attempt of

the Planning Commission and the City Council to expand the corridor to 50 feet from the bank and another 50 feet of planted area.

"It was a public taking of land for open space and I led the protest."

Many of the people involved in that issue urged him to run, Culwell said.

"I feel it is time to serve my community in this way," he said, and it is also time "to change the direction the council majority has taken.

"I feel they are imposing their preference on the people without considering fairness and justice. A lot of their attitude is reflected in the General Plan decisions. A lot of their attitude is reflected in their lack of trust for staff."

Culwell served as pastor of the Scotts Valley First Baptist Church from 1958 until last December.

He's been in the public spotlight many times.

In the 1960s, he helped organize the Christian Women for Morality and fought to get sexually explicit books removed from the Hip Pocket Bookstore in Santa Cruz.

He led the fight against the rock and roll-your-own use of The Barn, a one-time dairy barn that is now the community center for the Holiday Inn Travel Trailer Park on the east side of Highway 17.

In 1974, he demanded a local liquor store get rid of its girly magazines and erotic novels. However, city legal counsel said the store was within its rights. The owner removed some pressure by moving the books deeper into the interior of his store.

Culwell said it hasn't been decided yet if he and Liberty are running as a slate to get a winning majority from the 4,802 registered voters in the city.