

Denney: 'Duck Dynasty' rally not about politics

Lawrence Denney/Lewiston Tribune

I'd like to thank Marty Trillhaase for drawing attention to our campaign fundraiser on March 29, at the Idaho Center. Yes, we're bringing in leading cast members from "Duck Dynasty," the wildly popular Arts and Entertainment Network program that was temporarily canceled, then brought back.

Why was it brought back? Well, as I said, it's a wildly popular show and the public demanded it.

For those who haven't seen the show, "Duck Dynasty" is about a Louisiana family that has made a fortune by making duck calls and put together a funny reality show highlighting their down-home lifestyles. Phil Robertson, his son and other men in the program have long beards, which adds to the flavor of the program.

Granted, political correctness is not their strong suit and I don't agree with everything they say. Of course, I also don't agree with everything written in the Lewiston Tribune. In both cases, I will defend their rights to express opinions - even if I don't agree with them.

But the event on March 29 is not about expressing political views. Thousands of people will attend, and it will be a good time for all. I view the event as a nice break from the rigors of a primary election campaign.

As for the rest of the Tribune's editorial, I thought for a moment I was reading a script from "Duck Dynasty." It was about this character "Boss Denney" (aka "Duck Commander") who swooped down to suppress or take away voting rights from the masses. There were not a lot of funny lines, so I don't expect this script will play out on "Duck Dynasty."

But I would like to set the record straight on some of the issues raised.

The secretary of state does not set policies, but acts according to federal laws and laws passed by the Legislature. One of the main jobs of a secretary of state is to enforce laws that have been passed and ensure fairness in elections - a role that I take seriously. If the process or enforcement can be improved, then I will work to do that. Otherwise, a secretary of state is under the direction of state and federal code.

So, there is no cause for fear. I want to be secretary of state because my public service and background is suited for this position and I love Idaho.

There also is no fear about the "Duck Dynasty" crew doing anything other than turning March 29 into a fun day.

Denney is a state representative from Midvale and a Republican candidate for secretary of state.