

## Ready for the legislative kick-off

Football season usually begins at every level of competition in the month of September. Preseason is over, the



**LOOK TOWARD LEGISLATION**  
SEN. BILL HANSELL

players are in shape, their positions have been determined, and the playbook has been memorized. Teams and the fans who follow them are ready to go. I am no exception. Some of my colleagues have nicknamed me Senator Duck, because of my undying support for my alma mater, the University of Oregon.

On Sept. 28, we legislators, Senator Duck included, began what might be called a preseason. The Oregon Legislature is scheduled to kick off Jan. 22, 2019. Everything leading up to January is like a preseason. We are getting ready to compete.

Sept. 28 was the deadline for submitting legislative concepts we want to introduce as bills in the 2019 Legislative Session. Each senator or representative may submit as many bills as he or she wishes, if the deadline is met. My staff and I have been working for months on my list of bills. We held town hall meetings, heard from constituents, worked with associations, met with other legislators and listened, and listened, and listened. At the 5 p.m. deadline, we submitted forms for 48 bills. These 48 bills will be my initial playbook for the upcoming session.

A football team's playbook includes specific plays, with specific player responsibilities. Every play is unique with different players on the field for each play and alignment. The one position on the field usually remaining consistent is the quarterback, and in Senator Duck's playbook, that would be me. I am the one who has the responsibility to help make the play successful, or change it at the line of scrimmage.

I am pleased and excited about the plays we have. Here is a big picture breakdown without going into a lot of detail. (In fact, the details are currently being written up by the bill writers in legislative counsel.) Of the 48 bills, 28 are what I call constituent bills: 10 of those came from town hall meetings attended by county and city leaders, and the remainder are from citizens who asked for their issue to be part of the senator's playbook. And I am pleased to run with them.

One of the worst fires in Oregon, the Substation Fire, burned 80,000 acres in Wasco and Sherman counties this past summer. As a result of a meeting with farmers and rural fire districts held in Sherman County in August, six bills are being introduced.

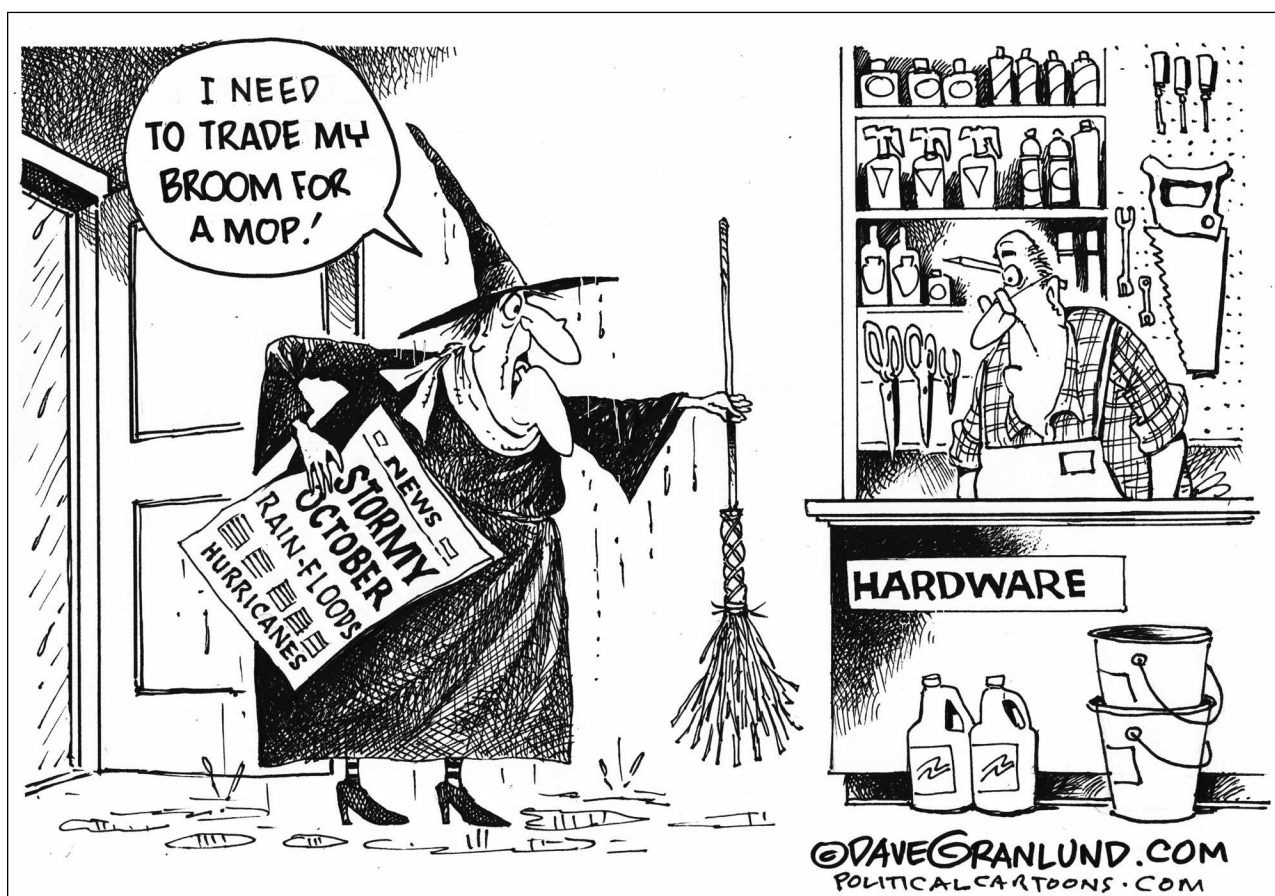
Eighteen of the 48 bills have an agriculture or natural resource focus, from elk damage to estate tax reform. Two of the bills are being submitted at the request of the CTUIR.

Will every bill we introduce be successful? Probably not, but we are going to try. We all know not every play produces a touchdown every time it is run. Some of our bills were unsuccessful in the previous session, but they were important and we are going to run with them again.

Part of the preseason is to get the right players ready to go. Figure out what opposition there might be and why, and adjust your play accordingly. Sometimes a pass play becomes a running play at the line of scrimmage because of the alignment of the opposition. And we will add plays as the season progresses.

But for now, our playbook is being drafted, and later it will be refined, as we get ready for the season (I mean session) to begin. I am grateful for the different members of the team from throughout the district, who helped craft the plays that are in our playbook. I believe we have a very good chance of crossing the goal line with the vast majority of them. I am looking forward to kickoff.

*Senator Bill Hansell is a 1967 graduate of the University of Oregon, as is his wife, Margaret. They were college sweethearts and were married spring break of their senior year. The senator will root for the Beavers, but not when they play the Ducks!*



## Your views

### Kotz: Mona Williams has personal and professional integrity

To the Editor:  
We have known Mona K. Williams for what seems like forever. We both grew up in Wallowa County, and so did she.

We have always found her to be very fair-minded, caring and kind. She's not just a surface person, she digs deeper. She has been our attorney and friend. She cares about people. She's her own person and sticks to what she knows, believes and the facts. I've never found her to be influenced by what others think or by politics. She will make a great circuit court

judge with both personal and professional integrity. Vote with us for Mona K. Williams for Union County Circuit Court Judge.

Dean J. and Carol D. Kotz  
La Grande

### Mendiguren: Wes Williams has the proper temperament

To the Editor:  
I am writing this letter to support Wes Williams for the position of circuit judge for the 10th Judicial District of Oregon for Union and Wallowa counties.

As a former circuit court judge, I have come across all types of attorneys, none more capable than Wes Williams. I always appreciated the way he addressed the court, my court staff, all attorneys, clients and opposing parties and witnesses.

Wes Williams is definitely the best qualified person running for this position. Wes has the proper temperament for the job. He can and will listen to

all sides and render his decision on the law based on the facts before him.

I will vote for Wes Williams for the Circuit Court Judge for the 10th Judicial District. I ask that you investigate both candidates and then decide for yourself. If you do investigate, I am sure you will agree and cast your vote for Wes Williams for Circuit Judge for the 10th Judicial District.

Phillip A. Mendiguren  
Retired circuit court judge

### Collier: Then and now, Wes Williams embodies admirable qualities

To the Editor:  
I am writing today to endorse my college pal for consideration to the post of circuit court judge in the nearing election.

When you consider attributes for selection for a critical position such as this, I'd like to suggest Wes' past performance, as a high school teacher straight out of college in the mid-1980s, as a qualitative attribute. Wes Williams so inspired his students that he was chosen among the entire teaching cadre of Sandy High School as "Mentor to Teachers" two years in a row. He then chose another calling and wanted to serve as trial attorney.

How telling is it, then, that a recent college graduate was so motivated to train our younger generation that he was chosen to mentor other teachers, who would then also inspire their pupils?

Wes Williams has been an inspiration and motivator of fellow Oregonians his entire life. As a student of criminal justice at Southern Oregon University, he was an inspiration to me to

### Write to us

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Observer welcomes letters to the editor. Letters are limited to 350 words and must be signed and carry the author's address and phone number (for verification purposes only).

We edit letters for brevity, grammar, taste and legal reasons. We do not fact check. We will not publish poetry, consumer complaints against businesses or personal attacks against private individuals. Thank-you letters are discouraged.

Letter writers are limited to one letter every two weeks. Email your letters to news@lagrandeobserver.com or mail them to La Grande Observer, 1406 5th St., La Grande, Ore., 97850.

#### Letters deadline

The Observer does not run endorsements of more than 350 words.

The Observer will institute a deadline for letters to the editor, so we can be fair with all the letters we receive and allow for responses before Election Day if necessary. Please submit your endorsement letters to the editor by noon Friday, Oct. 26. You can email them to news@lagrandeobserver.com, drop them off at our La Grande location, or mail them to The Observer, 1406 Fifth St., La Grande, 97850.

We will publish our last letters on Friday, Nov. 2. Election Day is Nov. 6.

do my best and work my hardest, and challenged me at every turn. Because of Wes, whether on the tennis court or classroom, nothing but hard work would be my goal each day, every day.

I cannot think of a more qualified, more humble and deserving candidate for the position of circuit court judge. I know of no one in my entire adult life who works harder, puts in longer hours and is committed to the rule of law and judicial fairness than Wes Williams — my best friend since 1983.

Mark Collier  
LT USCG (Ret.)  
Grants Pass

### Mann: Wes Williams has sorely needed perspective

To the Editor:  
Vote for Wes Williams for

circuit court judge on Nov. 6. His diverse background (ranging from agriculture to education) gives him a perspective sorely needed in our justice system today. I have known Wes for 14 years. My observations are based on my personal experience with him.

Wes is a proven champion of the underdog. He leaves no stone unturned in discovering the truth. He is ethical, humble, diligent and an asset to our community. His years of legal expertise in case law and constitutional rights will ensure a fair trial for all our citizens. His respect for all individuals regardless of their social status is evident in his courtroom dealings.

Please join me in casting your vote for Wes Williams for circuit court judge.

Iris Mann  
Summerville

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