The Observer

# This is not my Republican Party

How can the Republican Party allow this Congress to use their name to create an oppressive government? This is not the party I joined as a young man. These De-Republicans hide from the people who elected them and have no town halls because their voting records cannot be justified. These De-Republicans are bought and paid for by corporate dollars and ignore the voting public.

Wealth inequality has been exacerbated by congressional actions in the name of trickledown economics. Trickle-down economics is pure greed. The rich get richer, and the poor

get poorer. The end of net neutrality is another facet of economic inequality. The largest customers get the best service.

The U.S. is putting up border walls and obstructing established procedures to keep out refugees fleeing from bombs and death threats and seeking refuge and asylum here. Presently there are more than six million refugees without a country. This is a humanitarian crisis. Human rights are a cornerstone of the American ideal. We should be offering haven where we can.

Congress was not responsible for separating refugee parents and children — that was the administration. Deporting parents without their children and no means to reunite them is the same as statesponsored kidnapping. This separation of families is a national disgrace. The prioritizing and reunification of all families must default to our Congress.

Cabinet Secretaries must be qualified in the discipline of their department. Unqualified directors detract from department functions. The Education Secretary intends to convert public education to forprofit schools, providing expanded profit centers for her investments. The prison system has become a for-profit facility with the more incarcerated the greater the profit. The Environmental Protection Agency is being stripped of its regulatory mandate by a Secretary who uses it as his personal piggy bank, has repeatedly sued it and whose stated goal is to end the entire Agency. "Good of boys" are rarely the best choice to run the government.

Government spending is out of control. The government is overspent by trillions of dollars, providing corporations and the super rich with a huge windfall tax break. Instead of saddling the taxpayers with a huge tax bill, Congress needs to show some fiscal responsibility and create a balanced budget.

Congress failed to respond appropriately to attacks by Russia on our electoral system. This attack is every bit as dangerous to America as the 9/11 attack on the trade towers. Congress passed a bill, over the objection of the president, with 98 percent of the entire Congress requiring him to place sanctions against Russia in response to their attack on our 2016 election. Months after the deadline for doing so, he did place sanctions. These amounted to restricting from entering or establishing bank accounts in the U.S. the same Russian individuals and firms previously indicted by Prosecutor Mueller. These people would have no desire to visit the U.S. This is hardly an "appropriate" sanction.

The courts are being stacked with judges whose far-right ideology supports voter suppression and gerrymandering. Whether it is changing polling places, difficult identification requirements or being removed from the voter register — voter suppression is real. What has happened to the concept of "one man, one vote"?

Did the De-Republicans create all of these attacks on our values? No, not really. The administration has created a lot of it.

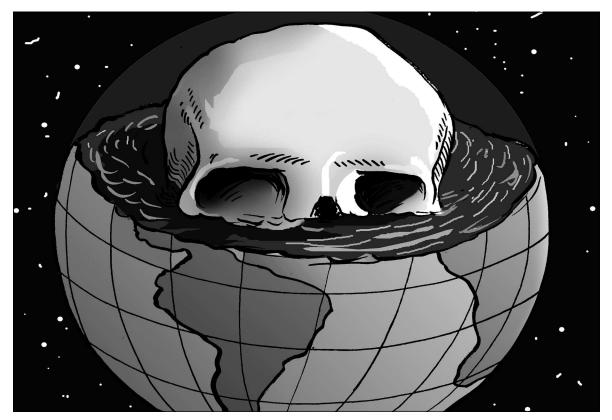
Did the DC-Republicans resist these attacks by the president on our Democracy? No, and they are complicit with this president and his administration.

These actions do not reflect American values. If this Congress cannot protect American values, why are they there?

If it can happen to one, it can happen to all. If you believe in America, you must vote.



David Ebbert is a resident of Enterprise. He is 82 and has been retired since he was 65. Currently he is a member of the Enterprise Planning Commission and the Enterprise Landmarks Commission. My Voice columns reflect the views of the author only. My Voice columns should be 500-700 words or as space allows. Submissions should include a portrait-type photograph of the author. We edit submissions for brevity, grammar, taste and legal reasons. We do not fact check. We reject those published elsewhere. Send columns to La Grande Observer, 1406 5th St., La Grande, Ore., 97850 or email them to news@lagrandeobserver.com.



# Your views

### **Wallace: Wes Williams** reveres the law and the legal process

To the Editor.

I am writing in support of Wes Williams in his bid to become the next circuit judge for the 10th Judicial District.

Wes has practiced law throughout Northeast Oregon for more than 20 years, handling all types of criminal and civil cases, all the way from murder cases to property line disputes. His wide-ranging practice and extensive courtroom experience have given him the knowledge and training necessary to "hit the ground running" when he becomes a judge.

I served as circuit court judge in Umatilla and Morrow counties, from 1993 to 2010, and had the opportunity to serve as a pro-tem judge in both Union and Wallowa counties often during that time. Wes appeared before me many times, and I came to appreciate his courtroom skills and professionalism. You could feel confident that when he appeared in court he would always represent his clients to the best of his ability.

Following my retirement as a judge, I practiced law with Wes in La Grande. During that time, I became even more convinced that Wes cares deeply about the law, justice and seeing that all who go before the court receive due process. As a judge, he will treat all attorneys and litigants who appear before him with patience and respect, carefully listening to all evidence and arguments before making his decision. In court or in the office, Wes Williams is a person who reveres the law and the legal

I respectfully ask for your support in electing Wes Williams as the next circuit court judge for the 10th Judicial District.

> Jeff Wallace The Dalles

#### **Lackey: Wes Williams** would be a committed and dedicated judge

To the Editor:

I have known and worked with Wes Williams over the past few years in various capacities. I know him to be a skilled legal counselor. His judgment with issues before him is honest and fair. His great-

est attributes are his knowledge of law and of the legal system and his personal attention to detail. He is totally committed to his practice and would be a committed and dedicated judge to serve our communities.

I fully endorse Wes Williams for the position of circuit court judge.

> John Lackey La Grande

#### Hansen: Walden is willing to risk the lives of his constituents

To the Editor:

As an American with Crohn's disease, I was deeply disturbed by Greg Walden's hypocrisy in both authoring and supporting the GOP's health care reform bill after claiming to care about people like me.

The GOP bill would have removed health coverage from 20 million Americans including many patients in Wallowa County. If my coverage had been removed, I would not have been able afford the \$36,000/year medication that keeps me alive. We have cancer patients in our community who would have had to stop life-giving therapies if that bill had passed. People we know could have died.

To me, the worst part is that Walden wrote and voted for this bill after assuring voters in multiple town halls and Q&A sessions that he would oppose a bill that removed health coverage from his constituents. Not only is he willing to risk the lives of his constituents — he's willing to lie to their faces about it. How can the citizens of Eastern Oregon be represented in Washington when our representative isn't truthful and doesn't respect the lives of his constituents? It's time for Walden to go.

I support Jamie McLeod-Skinner for Oregon's 2nd Congressional District and I hope you will too.

> Bjorn Hansen Joseph

#### **Valentine: Mona Williams** has ideal experience and character

To the Editor:

A judicial race should not be determined by the quantity of signs or letters. Rather it should be determined by the quality of character and experience of the candidates.

#### 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. Thankyou 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.,

Mona K. Williams, in the months she has served as judge, has demonstrated high personal integrity, discipline and the ability to work with people from all walks of life. As I observed her as a private attorney and as a district attorney, she was a lawyer whose word I could trust and whose preparation and knowledge of the law were deep and appropriately applied.

La Grande, Ore., 97850.

Mona is a fifth-generation Wallowa County citizen who has served the public in many ways, including 11 years as the Wallowa County District Attorney. She built coalitions that benefited victims and defendants. In private practice she calmly and decisively handled difficult divorces. As a prosecutor, she has been a strong advocate for

Prosecution is not an easy job. Five days a week the DA evaluates police reports, interviews witnesses, directs investigations. Mona has proven that she can balance the competing interests of protecting the rights of both crime victims and defendants to best serve the community. She has the ideal experience and character to continue to serve as judge for all of us.

> Eric W. Valentine La Grande

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