

Farnam challenges Barreto in Representatives race

By Cherise Kaechele
The Observer

Summerville's Skye Farnam is challenging incumbent Greg Barreto for the seat of House Representative of District 58. At the Union County Forum Monday night, Farnam said there needs to be Independent candidates to make party politicians uncomfortable.

Farnam, who is running as the Independent candidate, said running as a third party is a strength because his views are not limited by party doctrine, which is largely responsible for the culture war politics finds itself in now.

"Right now (Independents) don't have any sitting officials (in the state)," Farnam said. However, he added, the party's platform favors education, health care, security and campaign finance reform.

Those are all topics voters from both sides can get behind, he said.

Barreto, who had a prior engagement and could not attend the forum, is running as the Republican candidate and write-in candidate for the Democrats.

According to Union County Clerk Robin Church, that means no Democratic candidate filed for District 58 and Barreto won the write-in in the primary election.

Farnam said he is a proud father and local patriot. He's a landscape contractor — not a career politician.

"I'm a 'What would Jesus do' type of Christian," he said. "I'm running because of the elephant in the room — because of the divided nation. To hear the candidates tonight talk so civil and sensible to each other is a breath of fresh air."

Farnam's main point was that a rift divides the Republicans and Democrats and it's important that it is fixed.

"The political conversation seems to pit the Democrats against the Republicans," he said. "The message is the Republicans are trying to save your money, and the Democrats are trying to spend it. We all have money we'd like to keep, though, and we need the services that cost money."

The Summerville resident said services like mental health court, which was brought up by another candidate earlier in the night, is a great idea but costs money.

"How do we achieve the services we want and bring in the revenue?" he posed. "I've gone to these forums and (candidates) are hoping the state will kick some money down. When you go to the politicians at the state levels, they want to talk about anything else but raising money."

He said, if elected, he'd look forward to campaign finance legislation and talking more about raising money for the communities.

In Barreto's written submission, he said he ran for this position in 2014 because he wanted to attract and retain jobs.

"Oregon's growth rate of government spending is very alarming," according to the written piece. "Since 1980, Oregon's government spending has gone from \$7 billion per biennium to over \$70 billion per biennium, twice the rate of inflation, and twice as fast as our population growth. In the last six years, Oregon's general fund has grown by 31 percent, and even with this kind of revenue growth the majority party in the legislature has decided to tax even more, the smallest of businesses in the state. If the state of Oregon cannot control its spending and prepare for future expenses that are looming before us, we are in for a very rough ride."

His piece continued by stating the majority party for the state rules the senate and the job of Republicans, as the minority party, is to get into the majority so "we can implement opportunity for all Oregonians."

"The only way that happens is if all conservatives vote, educate their moderate Democrat friends and neighbors of the direction our state is headed with the current elected leadership we have had in Salem. Oregon cannot sustain the spending and regulation path it's on. My hope for Oregon is that voters get educated and vote accordingly."

HOTTUB

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ground his creative energy."

Joey's insights are oftentimes curious and thought-provoking, if not wise beyond his now-12 years of experience. As documented in the book, Joey expounds on politics — "We cannot hate each other because of the way we vote. Everybody wants what's best for their family"; the environment — "I think one of the reasons we may not fully respect the land and environment the way some cultures do is because we aren't indigenous"; family matters — "Peapa handles problems by burying them. Then he buries the shovel. I think he suffers from an object- permanence disorder" and "It seems like Mallory men do not evolve after the age of 13. I hope to break that mold."

Mallory's original posts on Facebook gained traction, with "likes" and comments on some reaching into the hundreds. He originally recorded his grandson's comments simply for other family members to enjoy, and he was pleasantly surprised by the overwhelmingly positive responses Joey's antics garnered on social media.

"There's something about a kid who repeatedly outsmarts the adults in the room that triggers a laugh," Mallory said. "He's a normal kid, he just has a lot on his mind. He's always been that way."

Nearly 18 months ago, Carroll approached Mallory with the idea to expand Joey's musings (and Mallory's retellings) into an actual book.

"The book was Tom's vision. He saw something in it that, frankly, I didn't," Mallory said. "He saw possibilities in my story that I missed."

In his spare time, Carroll set to compiling and editing the original Facebook posts, eventually expanding Mallory's "distilled essences" of the encounters from 4,000 words to nearly 20,000. One of Carroll's goals, however, was to maintain



Courtesy photo

Mike Mallory writes about his grandson, Joey (right), in a recently released collection of short stories titled "A View from the HotTub: Conversations with My Grandson."

Mike's narrative voice — a task that, after 50 years of friendship, was second nature.

"I knew I had to open it up — both for the sake of length and for making the stories richer," Carroll said of his contributions to the book. "Mike gave me a paragraph and I could simply see into that, knowing Mike, and when I'd hand him the (completed) chapters, he could see I'd captured the flavor of what he was thinking or what it meant. Now, neither he nor I are sure which one of us wrote what."

The completed work — "A View from the Hot Tub: Conversations with My Grandson" — was released Oct. 13 on Amazon through Carroll's publishing company, T.H. Carroll Sales (THC Publishing).

"I hope people enjoy reading it as much as I enjoyed writing it. I've learned, and unlearned, quite a lot from this kid. A lot of it is really profound and deeper than I think, clearly," Mallory said with a laugh. "I think (Joey) is looking forward to reading it and revisiting some of those memories, and hopefully when he's my age, he'll look at it and really get a chuckle out of it."

NORTH POWDER

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sary could open in town.

Regardless of where the money comes from, Morse said if North Powder's city hall and library are to be replaced, an outside

source of funding would be needed. The city councilor explained residents will not likely be willing to increase their taxes to replace the buildings because they recently began paying more in taxes on a \$3 million bond voters in the North Powder School District approved in 2017.

Island City mayoral candidate speaks at forum

By Dick Mason
The Observer

Street repair will be a focus of Robb Rea's if he is elected mayor of Island City.

Rea, who is running unchallenged for mayor, said at the Union County Candidate Forum Monday

that a number of Island City's streets need to be repaired. He said if he is elected a schedule will be devised for repairing Island City's streets on a regular basis. Streets most in need of repair will top the list.

"I would like to have

a plan for road maintenance," Rea said.

Rea has been a member of Island City's city council for about 20 years. He is seeking to succeed Delmer Hanson, who is completing his second two-year term as mayor and did not file for re-election.

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EAST OREGONIAN

"Walden helped craft & advance nearly 60 opioid-related bills"

(6/8/18)



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— Winnie, mother from Grants Pass



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