

Your views

Lenon: Wes Williams is the only choice for judge

To the Editor:

I'm writing this letter in support of Wes Williams for Union County judge. He is a man that is very capable and knowledgeable of representing the people of La Grande. I had a court situation come up and hired Wes. In every court appearance, he was well-prepared and had done his homework. He has practiced law in Union County for more than 20 years. And he did win my court case.

People in Union County should think about this: Wes Williams already knows all personnel in Union County courts. This is a positive situation, guaranteeing communication.

There is only one choice for Union County judge. I fully support Wes Williams for the next Union County judge.

Anthony Lenon
La Grande

Stever: Citizens have a right to elect their own judge

To the Editor:

In Mr. Anderson's letter, he stated "curiously, the largest contribution to Wes is \$10,000 from an individual in Milwaukee, Oregon." If you visit the webpage ORESTAR, anyone can see that the donation was from a woman named Hazel Mucken.

This woman is Wes' mother. She was able to raise a total of \$10,000 from his extended family members and then donated it to the campaign to show Wes that his family supported him. As Wes' campaign manager, I encourage all voters who are concerned about this to look into it or call and ask questions.

The implication in this statement regarding campaign financing is that if you "follow the money" you will unearth some hidden sinister truth. In reality, Mr. Anderson, Wes grew up on a farm with a big family who believes in him and supports him.

Regarding your statement concerning Wes' supposed lack of respect for the process, only by running a campaign for election can the citizens be heard. If no one runs against the governor's appointment, then the people never have the opportunity to choose who they think should be judge.

The citizens have a constitutional right to elect their own judge, and Wes, myself and many others in our community feel it is a constitutional right that we would like to exercise. This does not show a lack of

respect for the governor's appointment process. It shows a respect for the citizens' constitutional right to elect their own judge.

Anna Stever
Campaign Manager for
Wes Williams
La Grande

Knapp: Elgin City Council doing well

To the Editor:

Your article on Mr. Rutherford was about as derogatory as I have read in a long time. I've been pleased with the job the Elgin City Council is doing, as an ex-council member (1970s-80s). Don't judge unless you have walked in their shoes.

Betty Knapp
Elgin

Tully: Enthusiasm, hard work will make Wes Williams a good judge

To the Editor:

I'm writing to endorse attorney Wes Williams for Union and Wallowa Counties Circuit Court Judge.

I've known Wes for the past 41 years. We met in high school. Both sons of working-class families. Wes, one of three boys, played an important part in the small construction company his family owned.

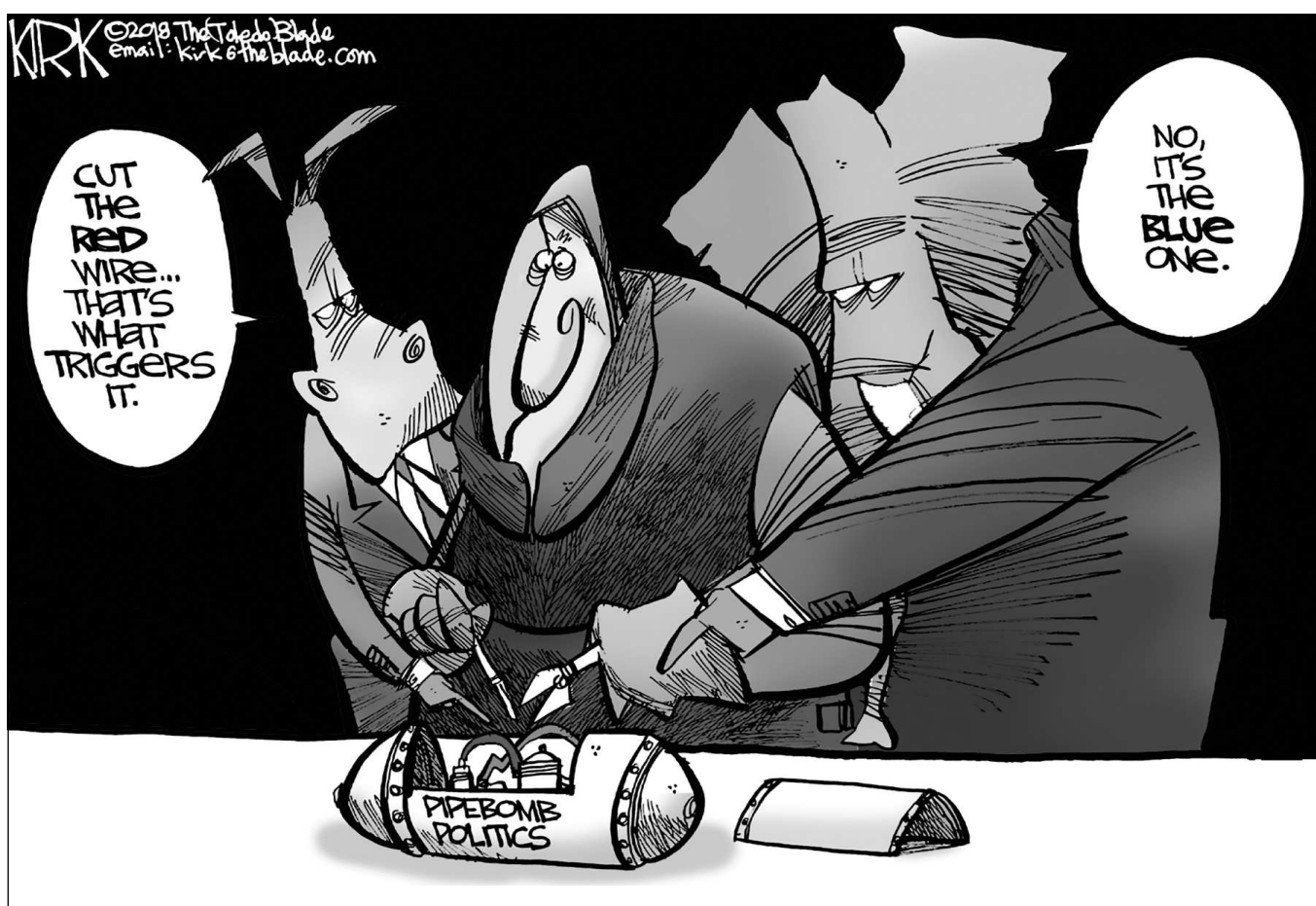
I worked alongside Wes and his family for years. His mom ran the office, his dad was the project management and the boys provided the hands-on labor, often times after school and most always on the weekends. When we weren't working for his family, we were bucking hay or working on his uncle's chicken farm. Sure we snuck out to the river when we could, but we never shied away from work that took grit.

I continued to witness Wes' enthusiasm and work ethic in college and then as a high school history teacher. Every Sunday was dedicated to preparing lesson plans, without exception. His dedication to his students and his profession wouldn't be satisfied unless he knew the subject thoroughly.

His students responded with respect and found high school history, dare I say, interesting. He earned the prestigious award Mentor Teacher for three years.

Wes has brought the same work ethic and enthusiasm to being an attorney. He continues to be driven by a dedication to fairness and respect. He and his wife, Jen, have lived in the same house since moving to La Grande, where they raised their two children, both products of the La Grande public school system.

Wes is your neighbor. I



wish he was mine. I have no doubt he will be a fair and respectful judge that will make you proud.

Jim Tully
Ashland

Clark: Wes Williams will work hard for you

To the Editor:

I taught agriculture/FFA at Union High School from 1983 to 2014. Agriculture teachers always encouraged students to find work experience projects that help with career choices. One student wanted to be a lawyer. I felt he should see what it would be like, before spending the time, energy, dedication and expense going to college and attempting this career choice. I emailed Wes Williams and asked if he would be interested in this student job shadowing him.

Wes had the student fill out a resume and conducted an interview. He was so impressed he actually paid the student while he was job shadowing. It was a lot of extra work training and giving the student a valuable experience.

The student ended up working for Wes for a couple of summers and college breaks and was helpful to his practice, and he received practical experience and compensation as a benefit. Wes is a person who is compassionate and willing to help people in need.

I have watched Wes work as an attorney and while supervising my student. He is knowledgeable and articulate and works hard to ensure that his clients have a fair defense. He treats the jury with respect and ensures they are comfortable in their role in the courtroom.

Students form their work ethic while growing up and it stays with them into adulthood. It's not something you

can turn on and off as the need arises. My hardworking students have gone on to be hardworking adults.

Wes is a sponsor at the Eastern Oregon Livestock Show and works hard for his family and legal clients, and he has worked hard to be your circuit court judge. He has gone door to door, focused his time and resources, and attended many functions and events to answer your questions on his qualifications for this position. He will bring this hardworking and knowledgeable experience with him if elected. Vote Wes Williams for circuit court judge.

Dennis Clark
Yreka, California

White: Wes Williams will make a great circuit court judge

To the Editor:

About 20 years ago, I moved into a new house here in La Grande. Amid the swarm of helpful friends and the typical moving chaos, there was this upbeat guy that nobody knew who was happily carrying boxes into my new home.

He introduced himself as Wes Williams, my new neighbor. I was impressed by his warmth, his genuine kindness and his outgoing personality. Since that day, Wes has been a good friend who has also earned my respect as a genuinely good person.

In my subsequent discussions with Wes over the years I have found that this congenial approachable guy also has an incredible knowledge of the law. Fortunately, I have never needed Wes as my representation in court, but if misfortune or tragedy ever necessitated that, Wes would have been the man I would want at my side.

I will be voting for Wes Williams for circuit court

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.

We run the letters on a first come, first served basis. 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.

judge because I believe he has the broad experience, the knowledge of law and the perfect temperament to be a great judge. Visit his website, his Facebook page, or meet him in person and I think you will agree that Wes Williams will make a great judge.

Dan White
La Grande

Larvik: Mona Williams is independent and not beholden to anyone

To the Editor:

In the name of transparency and full disclosure, the voters for judge should be aware of Wes Williams' associations.

Wes Williams' wife is Jennifer Williams. She is an attorney in his firm. She also uses the name Jennifer Schemm. She is

on the Board of Directors of Hells Canyon Preservation Council. Jennifer Schemm regularly represents HCPC in litigation. Her current lawsuit for HCPC is to halt a forest thinning project in the Lostine Corridor, a project that is meant to reduce wildfire danger and produce a harvest of four million board feet of lumber.

A review of Wes Williams' fundraising disclosures shows, in rough numbers, he has raised \$29,000 so far for his campaign and has spent \$28,000. On his list of donors, I recognize several defense attorneys and several HCPC board members. Why would such an extraordinary amount of money be raised and spent on a local judge race?

In contrast, Mona Williams has raised \$12,000 and spent \$8,000. She is

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