

Your views

LETTERS

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transparent and has no reason to conceal her associations. She has proven herself to be a judge that is independent and not beholden to anyone. Mona Williams is the best choice for judge.

*Cory Larvik
La Grande Oregon*

Jones: Wes Williams knows how to be tough when needed

To the Editor:

As a resident of Union County, I feel the need to share with other members of our community what I know about Wes Williams, why I will be voting for him, and why I encourage you to vote for him as well.

Shortly before marrying seven years ago, my husband introduced me to Wes. My husband is now a retired high school science teacher, having taught at La Grande high school. Wes also taught high school before getting his law degree. The two often discussed education and law. Over the years, I have noticed several things about Wes and many others that devote their time to teaching children. Wes is patient, he listens, he loves to learn, and he knows how to be tough when needed.

I had an experience about 30 years ago when someone filed a suit against me. I was a young, single mother of three at the time. As such, I could not afford an attorney. While in court, the judge presiding over the case was kind and patient with me. However, he was also firm and let both sides have a fair chance to voice their case. I believe Wes will be that same kind of judge. I have witnessed his patience and his excellent listening skills. Wes has experience in all types of law, he has a judicial temperament and he will be able to make tough decisions fairly. My family and I will be voting Wes Williams for judge.

*Emelie Jones
La Grande*

Hayes: Vote your conscience, vote with your heart

To the Editor:

I am a veteran, a believer in everyone's right to the American dream and a proponent of protecting all Oregonians.

I am voting for Jamie McLeod-Skinner because she has demonstrated an ability to tackle large and complicated projects while still coming in under budget, has an empathetic heart that crosses party lines and isn't beholden to large donors like Greg Walden is. Jamie will spend her time in our congressional district and already has plans for her first day in office. Contrast this with Walden, who seems to spend more time in other states courting large donors. It really shows who cares about Oregonians in CD2, and who cares about their own upward movement.

If you can't fathom voting for a Democrat (at one point, I couldn't either), think of voting for other Oregonians and their children. When my daughter was born with a rare genetic condition, and I was between jobs, the state of Oregon provided the care

that kept my little girl alive. Walden wants to gut that so-called "entitlement." Our little ones are the most precious resource Oregon has, and Jamie has espoused her deep desire to protect their right to health insurance and consider the futures they deserve. Just as I hope my children raise their kids with the same opportunities to hunt and fish in the mountains we love and call home, I want elected leaders who will provide a safe and productive Oregon to do it in.

Jamie's largest campaign contributions have been small donations from people like you and me, and she is fighting every day to ensure she deserves those dollars. Meanwhile, Walden accepted more than half a million dollars from the very opioid producers that are killing people here in Eastern Oregon. The rural way of life supports our entire nation with agriculture products and ranching, but Walden doesn't reflect those values in any way other than empty words. Who do we want representing rural Oregon values, a money focused radio personality, or the gal on horseback riding through town? Vote your conscience, vote with your heart.

*Joe Hayes
La Grande*

Vigil: Republicans will be held accountable for choices

To the Editor:

Even though candidates running under the Republican banner are trying to distance themselves from it, they cannot. They made their pact with this devil, and now they must own it. So, let's ask what Republicanism in the age of Trump really represents.

A few simple adjectives, such as racist, sexist, White Nationalist, anti-science and ignorant just don't suffice. Republicans now have to support the idea that a confirmed Supreme Court Justice has been accused of attempted rape and is a belligerent college drunkard, besides repeatedly lying under oath. Further, one must accept that alternative facts (aka lies) are an acceptable basis for developing government policy.

The only way a Republican candidate can evade being tarred with Trump's brush is to repudiate Trumpism loudly and repeatedly. Failing repudiation, Republicans are deemed supporters and enablers and must be held accountable for their choice this November.

*Trisha Vigil
Medford*

Brown: Stop the Jordan Cove Project

To the Editor:

Do you think environmental damage the gas industry can visit upon us is way down the road? If so, look at fracking destruction throughout Colorado, Utah and Nevada and think again.

Believing that the Jordan Cove LNG export terminal and pipeline will soon be approved to provide Asia with American LNG, gas corporations in these states are seeking approval to feed the beast with new wells. BLM is approving fracking permits across our public lands, while in residential

areas fracking sites are as close as 500 feet to homes.

Fracking creates toxic air, millions of gallons of wastewater polluted with carcinogens and offensive noise pollution, and leaks of the potent greenhouse gas methane further global warming. Meanwhile, construction requires that new roads crisscross our most beautiful wilderness areas leaving eyesores long after the harvest is done.

Following the money reveals that Jordan Cove profits all go to Pembina, a Canadian Corporation. The price for their profit is paid by the people of Oregon, Colorado, Utah and Nevada and all life on the planet. Pembina seeks early approval for its application. Let's urge Governor Brown, our representatives and state agencies to oppose the project and deny permits. Learn more at www.noLNG-exports.org.

*Sidney Brown
Ashland*

Haechrel: McLeod-Skinner is the real deal

To the Editor:

Facts of the day: Nearly half (46 percent) of CD2 residents live below or near the poverty level.

Of the 20 CD2 counties, 18 are below the state average (\$28,822) in median per capita income, and half of the 20 counties are more than 20 percent below the state average.

In the past 18 months (since July 26, 2018), according to www.fec.gov, Walden has spent the following at five-star resorts and restaurants:

- Over \$25,000 at the St. Regis Deer Park, Park City, Utah
- Over \$53,000 at Brasada Ranch, golf resort in Central Oregon
- Over \$17,000 at Mastro's, steakhouse in Washington, D.C.
- Over \$11,000 at the Mandarin Oriental, hotel in Washington, D.C.
- Over \$10,000 at Acqua, restaurant in Washington, D.C.

Meanwhile, Jamie McLeod-Skinner has driven more than 44,000 miles in her Jeep, sleeping in her teardrop trailer, in order to meet — and listen to — CD2 voters. She is the real deal, a person who actually shows up and answers questions, and she will represent us well in Congress.

Please join me in voting for a real representative by Nov. 6, Jamie McLeod-Skinner.

*Sandra Haechrel
The Dalles*

Peterson: Consider your vote wisely, and vote for Jamie

To the Editor:

Sometimes you know right away.

I met a new friend recently at South Stage Cellars in Jacksonville. Jamie came to speak. Soon the place was packed. Voters old and young were happily there.

I met and talked with Jamie McLeod-Skinner between when she arrived and when she spoke. I was immediately at ease as if catching up with an old friend.

That is who Jamie is. Jamie McLeod-Skinner,

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.

civil engineer, water and native rights attorney, multi-year civil servant, candidate for Walden's too-long-held seat in the U.S. Congressional Oregon District 2.

Her themes were family, community, education, economic development, and "ethics matter." Jamie delivered ideas, not buzz words,

The last time I tried to talk with Mr. Walden, he entered and left through the back door, so as not to have to speak with us. Does that tell you anything?

We have important decisions to make. Consider your vote wisely.

*Douglas Peterson
Medford*

Taylor: Measure 31-96 will protect for the rights of law-abiding citizens

To the Editor:

Ten Oregon counties, including Union County, will have the chance to defend the right to keep and bear arms in the general election on Nov. 6.

County voters have the opportunity to vote for a new county ordinance, Measure 31-96, the Second Amendment Preservation Ordinance, which will establish further protections for the rights of law-abiding citizens.

The new law will authorize the sheriff to use his discretionary powers to prioritize the use of his department's resources in the enforcement of state and federal firearm laws that infringe on the rights enumerated in the Second Amendment. Some of these laws include SB941 and SB917. In 2015, the Oregon Legislature enacted SB941 (the Gun Registration Act) and in 2017 enacted SB917 (the Gun Confiscation Act).

The sponsors of the insidious IP43, the "Assault Weapons Ban," tried to put a measure on the ballot that would have outlawed a good portion of the firearms and firearm accessories owned by Oregonians. Fortunately, they failed. Unfortunately, the legislature has a duplicate bill they intend to introduce in the 2019 Legislative Session beginning in February.

However, the people of Union County are not defenseless, and citizens in 18 other counties are running similar campaigns. These local preservation initiatives parallel two statewide measures, the Common Firearms Act and the Firearms Safety Education initiative, which complement each other in this multi-pronged operation to turn every Oregon county into a Second Amendment Sanctuary.

"One County at a Time" is our motto.

Please visit www.SanctuaryOrdinance.com or www.CommonFirearms.com to find out more. There is a webpage for each county, including Union County.

Vote yes for Measure 31-96, the Second Amendment Preservation Ordinance.

*Rob Taylor,
Chair of the Committee
to Preserve the Second
Amendment
Bandon*

Southwick: Mona Williams has proven herself to be more than qualified

To the Editor:

I am writing this letter in support of Mona Williams for Circuit Court Judge of Wallowa and Union Counties. I have known Mona for several years and have found her to always be professional and compassionate working within the judicial system. She has proven herself to be more than qualified to be elected to the position she was first appointed to when Judge West retired.

I have worked in law enforcement for 40 years, and during that time I have worked with many judges from across the state. Mona has the qualities and demeanor to make an excellent judge.

*Mitch Southwick
Retired Baker County Sheriff*

Kennedy: Make sure you know the facts about Jamie McLeod-Skinner

To the Editor:

Jamie McLeod-Skinner, the Democrat candidate for the 2nd Congressional District, would have you believe incumbent Greg Walden isn't doing his job and that she is the answer. But a quick examination of the facts shows she's anything but. She touts her experience as city administrator in Phoenix, but she was fired from that job after just four months. Chris Luz, the mayor of Phoenix, said, "Every department leader expressed deep dissatisfaction with her performance."

McLeod-Skinner, per her website, says she would restrict the private ownership of "military style" weapons along with a host of other gun control measures that she calls "common sense."

But, perhaps the most troubling goal she has if elected is universal health care. The non-partisan Government Accounting Office estimates that would cost the U.S. \$1.3 trillion per year — about one-third of this year's total budget. That will require a huge tax increase

to pay for it.

And, despite her claims, Congressman Walden has been a leader in trying to change federal forest policy to allow more scientifically based timber management, and he's been at the forefront of the battle against opioid abuse.

I urge you to educate yourself on Jamie McLeod-Skinner. You'll find that Greg Walden is the only choice for Congress.

*Ken Kennedy
Ontario*

Flagg: McLeod-Skinner seeks to understand people of District 2

To the Editor:

I am so excited about our current choice for new representation for District 2 in Washington. Jamie McLeod-Skinner brings a real understanding of the people of her district, and throughout this campaign, she strived to increase that understanding. In contrast, our current representative, Congressman Greg Walden, has withdrawn from nearly all contact with his constituents. His only interest appears to be courting those who can contribute to his gargantuan war chest for re-election — a war chest he has built by being the recipient of the largest amount of PAC moneys in the House of Representatives.

Jamie understands that the majority of District 2 wants affordable health care for all citizens. By contrast, Mr. Walden was one of the authors of the plan to scrap the Affordable Care Act. Had that bill succeeded, 64,000 people in our district would have lost their health care coverage.

As a retired RN who worked in case management, I can testify to the good that is coming from the ACA — a reduction of ER use, a focus on the whole patient not just a specific disease, and incentives for clinics, hospitals and insurance companies to put an emphasis on education, prevention and personal health management. All these things lead to a healthier, more productive population and a decrease in the cost to taxpayers. Mr. Walden would undo all of that.

I urge you to go to www.jamiefororegon.com. Read Jamie's position on the issues, her family history, her education and her experience. Then mark your ballot for the best person to represent Eastern Oregon in Washington: Jamie McLeod-Skinner.

*Lezlee Flagg
Pendleton*