

Your views

Donna Beverage is an ideal county commissioner

My name is Terra Richter and I am writing this letter in support of Donna Beverage, Union County Commissioner.

I have always admired Donna Beverage for her commitment to our local community, Union, for decades. Recently, I have become more involved in local community groups and have seen the passion Donna has for our region as a whole. Whether it is by phone or in person, she has been a part of each and every group meeting she can attend. I have witnessed Donna Beverage provide leadership, mentorship access to resources and affirmation. I have witnessed her advocate for Union County consensus and unity in negotiation. She is committed to our county, and she is committed to our region as a whole.

Locally, Donna Beverage has been an asset to our initial Main Street Economic Development Committee to mentor and provide resources to the new group. Donna Beverage has kept the City of Union Chamber of Commerce active in events such as Winter Wonderland and the Grassroots Festival. She is also an active leader in the Friends of the Historic Union Community Hall’s research on the feasibility of purchasing and maintaining the Union United Methodist Church as a community center.

In the role of Union County commissioner, Donna Beverage has provided information about Union County events and services, and she strives to keep the lines of communication as open and seamless as possible. In this role, Donna has worked tirelessly to keep the Eastern Oregon region as well as Union County moving forward. She has traveled extensively to ensure we as a community are protected and have a say in Salem.

In addition to her work locally and throughout Union County, I have seen Donna Beverage as a rancher and farmer. She understands our local culture and relationship to the land. Donna Beverage can advocate for our unique Eastern Oregon way of life and is an ideal candidate for Union County commissioner. Please vote for Donna Beverage.

Terra Richter
Union

Bentz’s background in rural Oregon will serve us well in D.C.

I have been reluctant to make endorsements this primary season. However, I feel strongly enough about Oregon’s 2nd Congressional District (CD2) to endorse former State Sen. Cliff Bentz.

At the federal level, Senator Bentz will approach issues with a studious, thoughtful, analytical style. He is knowledgeable of the issues and potential of CD2. Cliff comes from a Malheur County ranch family, was educated in Oregon and then went on to earn his law degree and practiced law for many years. While in his law practice, he focused much of his time and energy on water law. Senator Bentz has an encyclopedic knowledge of water law.

Senator Bentz’s background in rural Oregon will serve us well in Washington, D.C. He knows firsthand the urgency of

getting our forests into a more resilient state. His ideas include putting people back to work while reducing the threat of wildland fire.

The coronavirus is severely damaging our local, state and national economies. Cliff Bentz will use his small business experience to work to advance a pro-jobs agenda while rebuilding our damaged economy.

Please join me, 31 other county commissioners, four state representatives, seven state senators, 17 county sheriffs, the Oregon Cattlemen’s Association and former Congressman Bob Smith in voting for Cliff Bentz for Oregon’s 2nd Congressional District.

Paul Anderes
La Grande

Bill Miller will bring about a needed change

When an upcoming election is somewhat crowded, we believe letters of recommendation have more value, particularly those that come from individuals who are familiar with and know what is needed in the elected position. We are also interested that people who are advocates of term limits decide that it doesn’t really apply to the current situation.

We support Bill Miller for the position of Union County Sheriff, and we are impressed by recommendations from people who know what is needed: lawyers, police, judges. Personally, we believe Bill Miller has the training that is required, the experience with the department and the support of an impressive group of former members of Union County’s law enforcement community.

We believe Bill has strong ties to the county and to his involvement with law enforcement. He is level-headed and determined to make a difference. When two members of the department challenge the present sheriff, it seems to be an indication of a needed change. We believe Bill Miller is that change.

Rod and Evelyn Spikes
Elgin

Union County needs new leadership and real experience – vote for Bill Miller

My name is Kyle Hove, and I am a recently retired Oregon State Police sergeant with 20 years of service to Eastern Oregon, primarily Union County. I have known and worked with Bill Miller for the majority of these years.

I can recall many night shifts where I was the only officer on duty for OSP, and Bill was the only deputy on duty for the UCISO. I always knew I could count on Bill to lend a hand or have my back if I needed him. When things got tough we relied on each other, learned from each other, and depended on each other. Bill and I always believed we were in it together to find justice in each and every situation. It did not matter that we wore different uniforms. We were on the same page, to protect citizens and find truth and justice for victims of crime.

I have always found Bill to be very competent in his work. He is a take-charge kind of guy and always has been. He will be a compassionate servant-leader for the people of Union County and his staff. What more could you ask for? I know he is the answer

Write to us

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to what Union County needs right now. They need continuity and stability to better serve the citizens of Union County. Bill Miller can do that.

Bill has many great endorsements from people who have been involved in the law enforcement profession. They know what he is all about. These people led in this profession too and know what it takes to lead. Like me, they have a belief in Bill, developed from watching him over the years, and this ultimately led to them endorsing him in this important campaign.

Bill is a servant for the people, a veteran, a community volunteer, and he’s been a leader his entire life. He has proven that for more than 30 years. I know him well and respect him. I know his history and his record of service to this community. He is loyal, honest, hardworking and diligent and has the utmost integrity.

I am endorsing Bill Miller for the position of Union County Sheriff. I believe Bill has the desire, experience and qualifications necessary to do the job and do it well. Union County needs new leadership and real experience.

Kyle Hove
Cove

Let’s see what a new sheriff can do for Union County

Here we are quickly nearing election time, and for the first time in a long while, we have more than one candidate running for the office of Union County Sheriff. With so many choices, we should all do our research and make our decision carefully. I believe four terms is enough for the current sheriff. Many write in or post on social media their support for Sheriff Rasmussen, and others tell of how they were wronged by him or his staff. Either way, four terms is long enough, and it is time for a change in command. Let’s see what someone else can do for the county.

On Nov. 4, 2019, a letter was published in The Observer announcing the Union County Law Enforcement Association was endorsing Boyd Rasmussen in the upcoming election. On March 14, 2020, a letter was published stating the Union County Law Enforcement Association changed who it is endorsing and is now supporting deputy Cody Bowen. This is a red flag for me and suggests that staff in this office has little belief in their current leader. In addition, within a short period, three sergeants have walked away and distanced themselves from the sheriff’s office. Although I don’t know the details behind this, it makes me question the internal continuity of this office and furthers my belief that a change in leadership is needed.

Looking at the three challengers, I believe Bill Miller to be the most viable and logical choice.

Mr. Rollins is a veteran, but

so is Bill. I thank them both for their service. Mr. Rollins has a background in military policing and security, but he would still need to attend the Oregon Police Academy to become certified, and this would come at additional expense to Union County taxpayers. Bill is already certified.

Deputy Bowen has spent the majority of his law enforcement career as the DARE instructor and school resource officer. Although he appears to be a very charismatic, well-liked individual, his overall law enforcement experience pales in comparison to Bill’s. Bill has more tools in his belt.

I have read all of the many endorsements from former law enforcement professionals in this county in support of Bill, and they are all testaments to Bill’s skills and ability to be our next sheriff. I trust their words and opinions.

Sheri Benitez
La Grande

Bill Miller understands strengths and weaknesses of sheriff’s office

As the Union County district attorney from 2006-14, I had many opportunities to work with Bill Miller, and I endorse him for sheriff of Union County. In more than 30 years as a prosecutor, this is only the second time I have made such an endorsement.

Many law enforcement officers support Bill and have identified many of his professional and personal strengths. I can attest to his work ethic, tenacity, thoroughness and skills as an investigator. He also possesses extraordinary compassion, fairness and respect for others.

Bill understands the strengths and weaknesses of the Union County Sheriff’s Office. He will be in a position to address the weaknesses and to build on the strengths fairly and transparently. At a time when law enforcement officers face increased scrutiny, risks and challenges, Bill’s leadership and personal traits will benefit the citizens of Union County as their sheriff.

Tim Thompson
Dallas

Joel Fish follows through on his promises

Joel Fish is an experienced leader and manager. I sat on the committee that hired Joel as chief of the Enterprise Police Department and was impressed by his experience, preparation and knowledge of the city (learned through hours of research). At that time EPD consisted of only one officer, outdated equipment and hand-me-down vehicles. Now, the department is at full capacity and vehicles, uniforms and equipment have been updated.

EPD has often assisted in Wallowa County Sheriff’s Office cases or covered calls throughout the county when the sheriff and/or his deputies were unavailable. Joel will bring the necessary management skills, experience and dedication to the sheriff’s office.

Joel leads by example and is willing to take calls and shifts. He supports his officers, provides them with training and encourages them to keep learning. Joel will do the same

for his deputies and dispatchers.

Joel also supports his community by participating in local activities and visiting the Enterprise school in uniform to greet the students as they arrive. The children know him as someone they can trust and turn to if they need help. As sheriff, Joel and his deputies will expand the school visits to all three schools because Joel believes crime prevention starts with our children and includes law enforcement being visible in the community.

Joel Fish follows through on his promises and is committed to a safe Wallowa County. Join me and vote Joel Fish for Wallowa County Sheriff.

Mona K. Williams
Joseph

Bill Miller is well prepared to be sheriff

Recently, seeing a number of sheriff candidate signs and being unfamiliar with all but the current sheriff, I asked an acquaintance, for whom I have utmost respect, what he knew about the various candidates. Having worked at the sheriff’s office in many roles over the years, he had good insight and comments to offer. As a result, I decided Bill Miller would get my vote.

This decision has been enhanced by the quality of endorsements Bill has received from others, particularly those whose careers were in the judicial or law enforcement system. There are people who know how the sheriff’s office should operate and have seen some of the candidates “in action.” Because these are people who were highly respected in their roles and observance of ethic, I give much value to what they have written. A word many of the endorsers use in describing Bill is “integrity”; that one word conveys a lot and it’s a quality I want in a sheriff.

Bill has experience in many aspects of law enforcement and has obtained a variety of certifications, which speaks to his professionalism and willingness to learn. He is well prepared to be sheriff. I suspect Bill wouldn’t be the most popular sheriff among the employees but am convinced he’d be one of the best. He has high standards for himself and would expect that of others in the department, which would lead to their respect. Many of us had teachers or bosses whom we’ve liked because they were fun and friendly; however, if we look at those who expected more of us and held us accountable, were less flexible with the rules, they are undoubtedly the ones we learned most from and/or respected.

Bill and his wife came out to put up a sign I had requested. He shared many of his experiences and things he has learned as well as his values. He prefers the “peacemaker” role over the “got’cha!” and will do his best to de-escalate a situation. In his role as a parole/probation officer working with people having addiction problems, he has gained insight into their lives and what has led them to their current situations and works to help them change their behaviors. He stated he will not lie, so when someone asks a question, he will answer truthfully; I had several questions and was pleased to get real answers.

Margaret L. Mead
La Grande

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Phone: 541-963-3161

Toll free (Oregon): 1-800-781-3214
Fax: 541-963-7804
Email: news@lagrandeobserver.com
Website: www.lagrandeobserver.com
Street address: 911 Jefferson Ave., La Grande

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