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Sam
Shepard's

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2012 ELECTION COVERAGE

ENDORSEMENTS

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Peter DeFazio (D)

This race is a race in name only and the winner is without a shadow of a doubt Rep. Peter DeFazio. DeFazio is challenged in the primary by Matthew Robinson, son of Republican candidate Art Robinson, in more of the senior Robinson's strange political theater. Robinson the younger switched parties back in August, but he hasn't switched any of his political leanings. He might call himself a Democrat but he's a wolf — no, scratch that — a pup in sheep's clothing. DeFazio's raised some ire with his current forest plan, but that's what the irascible congressman does best — gets all fired up and gets his constituents all fired up too.

OREGON SECRETARY OF STATE

Kate Brown (D)

Kate Brown is an easy choice in this primary contest against perennial candidate Paul Damien Wells, who has little to offer. Among other positive work, Brown has expanded Oregonians' access to the ballot through online voter registration.

OREGON ATTORNEY GENERAL

Dwight Holton (D)

Holton served ably as U.S. attorney for Oregon for nearly two years, and has shown us that he could run the AG office. We like his emphasis on preventative measures in law enforcement, his willingness to take on environmental issues and his tireless reaching out to the people of the state. So far, he seems to be an unusual politician who has some modesty and doesn't need to trumpet his accomplishments even in a campaign. We also like Ellen Rosenblum, but her career as a judge would appear to qualify her more for the Oregon Supreme Court than for the Department of Justice. Having left her seat on the Court of Appeals, she says she wants more activism, but we suggest she consider filling the next vacancy in the high court instead. Both are Democrats; no Republican opposition.

SUPREME COURT, POSITION 3

Timothy J. Sercombe

Three good candidates for this job, but we pick Sercombe because of his smarts, his strong work ethic, his ability to work with all kinds of people and his dry wit. He practiced law in Eugene for 14 years, moved to a Portland firm and then to the court of appeals in 2007 with an appointment from Gov. Kulongoski. His knowledge of land use, municipal and administrative law will be welcome on the Supreme Court.

COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE POSITION 6

James C. Egan

Jim Egan is a sitting judge on the Linn County Circuit Court and a Republican whose career has been representing injured people in workers comp and personal injury cases. He also served as a JAG attorney, including a tour in the Middle East before going on the bench. The Court of Appeals needs members who have worked as trial court judges. The Oregon appellate judiciary, the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals currently include only one judge, Dave Brewer, with that important trial court experience.

That experience in the trenches on the first level of the judicial system is most important. Egan was president of the Oregon Trial Lawyers Association in 2005-6.

NORTH LANE COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Rob Handy

Rob Handy would like to see big private timber pay its fair share of taxes, to the tune of about \$20 million a year in Lane County alone. It's no wonder he has been targeted by the timber industry. Nothing personal, just business. Despite all the drama in his first term, or maybe because of it, we've seen Handy mature and grow stronger, engaging in ambitious environmental and economic issues, educating his constituents, being accessible and standing up for the well-being of people all over Lane County.

Pat Farr is aligned with the timber, gravel and construction industries, which is fine, but those interests are already