



editor@dailyastorian.com

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OUR VIEW

Marquis leaves a legacy of competence

Josh Marquis has been Clatsop County district attorney so long that few of us remember what brought him to office. It was the utterly disastrous, brief career of Julie Leonhardt that opened the way for Gov. Barbara Roberts to appoint Marquis. The short version of the Leonhardt fiasco was that she was indicted and convicted of lying to a grand jury. She was recalled from office, convicted and disbarred.

Marquis, who announced Wednesday that he will not seek re-election, brought competence to the job. He was experienced at prosecuting murders. His instinct about animal abuse was humane and wise. He broke ground in prosecuting elder abuse.

This newspaper has appreciated Marquis because of his openness. He has been eager to explain aspects of criminal justice and accessible to our reporters. Grasping those sometime arcane elements is essential to writing



District Attorney Josh Marquis reads off charges brought against Phillip Ferry, the man who shot Seaside Police Sgt. Jason Goodding in 2016.

about the criminal courts.

This county has witnessed some seven murders during Marquis’ tenure. His office handled them competently. And if we did not appreciate that, we only had to look across the Columbia River into Pacific County, Washington,

where a weak prosecutor, David Burke, dropped the ball.

For years and for very good reason, Marquis argued against prosecuting drunken-driving cases in Astoria Municipal Court. Astoria Mayor Willis Van Dusen and his City Council allies

protected that flawed system. Once Van Dusen was out of office, the new mayor and council moved the city’s drunk-en-driving cases to Circuit Court.

The case of an animal collector, Vikki Kittles, who arrived with a school bus full of cats, prompted Marquis to make animal abuse a state legislative issue.

When the late Hal Snow brought Marquis evidence of an elder abuse case out of Warrenton, the DA seized the moment. The testimony of accountant Jim Lanzarotta was a critical element in the prosecution. It was a complicated case, and the prosecution prevailed. Meanwhile, elder abuse unfortunately has become predictable in our local culture, as it has nationally.

The good news in Marquis’ retirement is that competent candidates will emerge. After 24 years of having a well-run district attorney’s office, the voters expect it. And that is Marquis’ best legacy.

OUR VIEW

Federal prosecutors took low road in Bundy case

It should be obvious: When the U.S. government goes after anti-government protesters, it must follow the highest legal, ethical and operational standards. To do otherwise is to reinforce the protesters’ notion of an unfair, untrustworthy and undisciplined government. Yet in the court case against Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy — whose 2014 ranching protests helped inspire the 2016 armed occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in Oregon — federal agents and prosecutors veered off that high road and onto the low road. Because the government withheld evidence that might have aided the defense, federal Judge Gloria Navarro declared a mistrial last month, stating, “A fair trial at this point is impossible.”

Bundy, sons Ammon and Ryan, and sympathizer Ryan Payne faced multiple charges, including conspiracy, from the Bundys’ 2014 armed standoff against federal agents in Nevada. Navarro has scheduled a hearing for Monday to determine whether the case against them should be thrown out. On Friday, the federal prosecutors asked for

Our nation’s founders envisioned a fair, just and accountable government.

Bundys and their supporters were wrong to take up arms against federal agents who planned to seize the Bundy cattle over the unpaid fees and ensuing fines. Ammon Bundy and his cohorts were wrong to bring their armed campaign into Oregon and ultimately seize the Malheur refuge.

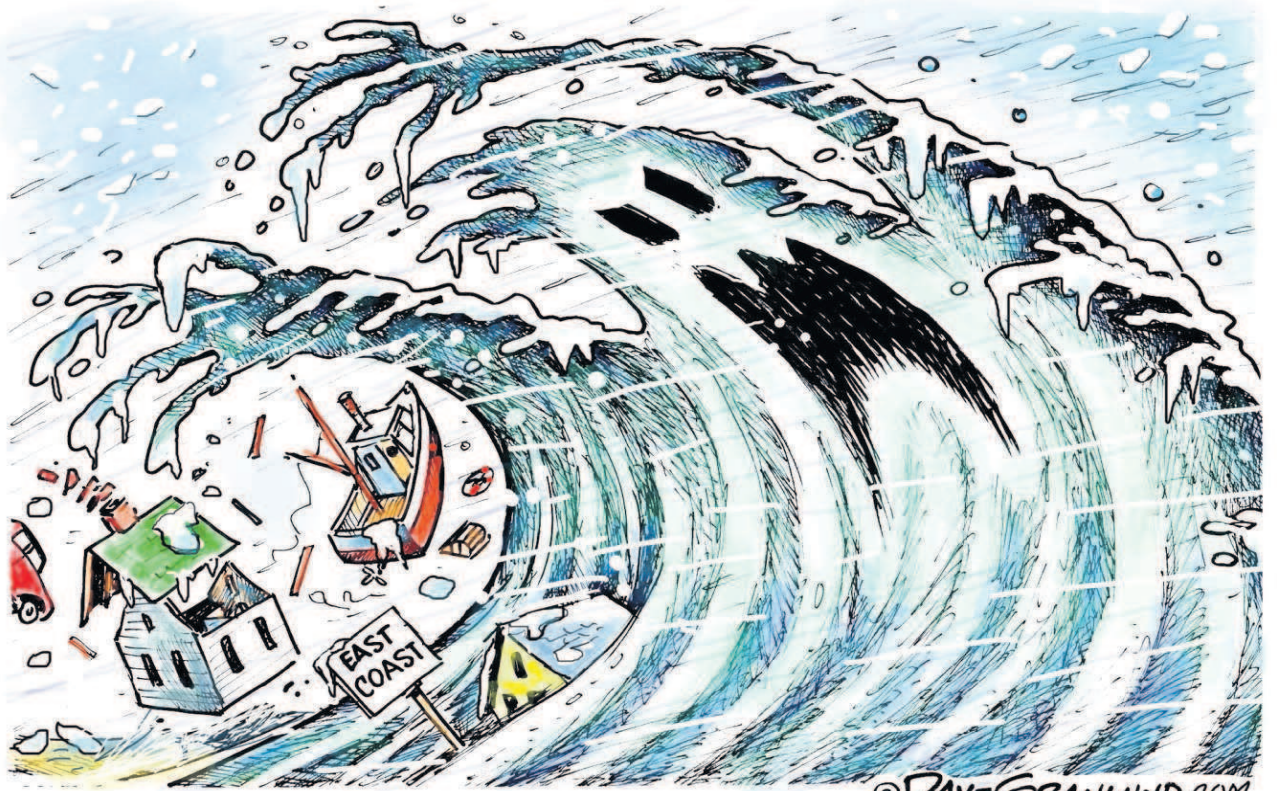
However, documents and testimony reveal that at various stages, it was as if some federal agents had a vendetta against the Bundys and their supporters. As one example, a federal threat assessment had found the Bundys were not the violent threat that the government claimed. Yet the government expectation of a violent response from the Bundys almost guaranteed violence. The government had positioned snipers and other surveillance, and gun-toting Bundy supporters had shown up to protect the cattle ranch.

The similarities to the Malheur wildlife occurrence are eerie. The U.S. Department of Justice’s heavy-handed pursuit of two Harney County ranchers — Dwight Hammond Jr. and son Steven Hammond — led to excessive prison sentences in their arson case. In response, Ammon Bundy and his fellow anti-government sympathizers descended on the community of Burns and eventually invaded the wildlife refuge.

Nothing justifies those extremist actions of Ammon Bundy and his followers, or those of Cliven Bundy. But remember: Our nation’s founders envisioned a fair, just and accountable government. When federal prosecutors and law enforcement agents subvert these principles, they undermine the very government they claim to uphold.

a new trial, contending their failure to share all their evidence with the defense was unintentional.

Let there be no doubt: Cliven Bundy was wrong when he kept using public land for his cattle after choosing not to renew his federal grazing permit and not pay the grazing fees. The



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Vote ‘yes’ on Measure 101

Please vote “yes” on Measure 101 to maintain funding of Medicaid. I am an optometric physician, recently retired after 28 years of practice in Tillamook. I know first-hand the importance of people having access to health insurance.

Over the years I saw numerous patients with sight-threatening eye conditions who delayed or went without regular eye health examinations or treatment because they did not have insurance. Patients with glaucoma, diabetic eye disease, cataract, eye infections, and on, who needed either acute care or ongoing care, would often go without seeing a doctor if they did not have insurance.

This, in some, cases led to people losing eyesight. And, there were children who did not get regular vision exams, leaving them without the ability to see well, and reducing their chance for success in school.

Measure 101 maintains funding for Medicaid health insurance. Additionally, if Measure 101 fails, Oregon will lose hundreds of millions of federal dollars that help fund our state Medicaid system.

Measure 101 is a referendum on House Bill 2391, which passed with bipartisan support. Please join me and vote “yes” to assure children, seniors, and people with disabilities can get the health care they need.

ERIC HALPERIN
Gearhart

Voters’ pamphlet for Jan. 23 election is flawed

On the front of the voters’ pamphlet for Oregon’s Jan. 23 special election, Oregon Secretary of State Dennis Richardson has signed a Certificate of Correctness that includes the claim, “that this guide has been correctly prepared in accordance with the law in order to assist electors in voting.”

I seriously doubt he has read the voter’s pamphlet. If he had, he would have noticed that two of the submissions as Arguments in Favor are actually Arguments in Opposition. The one on pages 29 to 30, information for which was submitted by Lindsay Berschauer, is heavily sarcastic and concludes, “Vote no on 101!”

The other, on pages 31 to 32, information for which was submitted by Julie Parrish, concludes, “Common Sense 101 says: Vote no on 101!” Readers will note that these same two women submitted most of the Arguments in Opposition.

DIANE AMOS
Cannon Beach

Bus agency should offer expanded service, not phone apps

On behalf of the disenfranchised working class and the poor of the state of Oregon, we would like to ask that the board of directors of the Sunset Empire Transportation District’s Northwest Ride Center restrain itself from the tyranny of gadgetry, in regard to its so-called “permanent” new funding source, the taxpayers’ hard-earned dollars, i.e. a new payroll tax for transport.

One wonders if a deal is already in the works, whereby the funding thus provided by the people has been promised to Wall Street techno fat cats, in the form of “apps” deals, and fake techno money schemes proposed for alternate bus fare. This is truly shocking, were it found to be found true.

Please be advised that we the people, who are the permanent underclass, are precisely both the clientele and the funders of the ride center. Therefore, to inflict a regime of “taxation without representation” would be most unwise.

What we need are not gadgets that imply ownership of \$500 a pop smartphones; not your main clients, by the way. What is needed from any interim funding (in the form of a newly

extracted tax,) is more buses to more people, and expanded ride care rides, i.e., serving our real needs.

Make this your priority, please. As we become further impoverished by irresponsible spending of our funds, we cannot afford cars, and that is why we are forced to take a bus. So, please figure this one out.

You can start by putting a bus out to Riverpoint/Cavalier Court, where the working people have been waiting for years, since the last ride center spending spree and corruption scandal.

LOIS J. DUPEY
Astoria

‘Yes’ to Measure 101

Ballot Measure 101 is important to rural Oregon. Where you live should not determine the level of care you receive, or if you are able to receive care. Families living in rural communities deserve consistent access to quality health care.

In some rural counties, more than a third of families rely on Medicaid. This January, voters will be asked to vote on Measure 101, which will provide direct funding for Medicaid in Oregon, protecting coverage for nearly 400,000 Oregonians and reducing premiums. It will also allow Oregon to receive nearly \$5 billion in federal funding.

According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, Oregon’s rural uninsured rate fell by 51 percent between 2013 and 2015. We need to build on that success to keep all of us healthy and stabilize costs. We can’t go back to a time when many people waited too long to go the doctor and ended up in the emergency room, or never even made it to the hospital. Families should not be put in that position.

Join me in voting “yes” on Measure 101 this January.

ROBERT DUEHMIG
President, Oregon Rural Health Association Board
Astoria