

O EAST OREGONIAN PINION

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Founded October 16, 1875

YOUR VIEWS

Editor’s note: Many of these endorsements have been edited for space. They appear at eastoregonian.com in their entirety.

Murdock says he’ll finish term if elected

As the *East Oregonian* reported in its story on Thursday about the commissioners race, I have worked very hard to focus my campaign on my qualifications and the fact that by all measures the county is in excellent shape. I would expect my opponents to try convincing people otherwise. They don’t have many other avenues to advance their cause. But I would also expect my opponents to respect the voters enough to avoid rumors and falsehoods.

In his comments to the paper on Thursday, Mr. Pullen suggested that it would be my intention to serve for a couple of years and then appoint Paul Chalmers to fill out my term. A rather basic part of that untruth is the fact I would not be in a position to make that appointment. But more important, there is absolutely no truth to Mr. Pullen’s rumor and it is a complete and total misrepresentation.

Actually, Mr. Pullen should be truthful with the voters in all matters relating to his candidacy.

At the same time, Mr. Bailor indicates the commissioners are making decisions secretly. In actuality, we meet in public twice a month to make our decisions at a meeting which is open to anyone. If people are truly concerned about our decisions or spending, we are just completing two days of open deliberation on the 2018-2019 budget. No candidates other than the incumbents have attended any of these meetings or sessions.

I am saddened the truth is becoming a victim in this race. In the interest of the voters, let’s get back to the issues and quit the fabrications.

George Murdock
Pendleton

Givens for re-election

In 2006, Larry Givens considered his more than a decade of experience on the Umatilla County Planning Commission as a precursor to serving as county commissioner. He ran, was elected and has continued serving the county well from the commissioners’ office since January 2007.

Givens’ background as a Umatilla County native, rancher and educator has served him well in the role he has filled the past three terms. He has been busy not only on the local level, but involved with state and national issues. Among the organizations with which he’s been involved are the Association of Oregon Counties, of which he is past president; the Blue Mountain Forest Plan

Advisory Committee, director of National Association of Counties and a member of its Energy Environment and Land Use Steering Committee. Givens also has participated on state and regional committees involving geology and minerals, transportation, land conservation and development, water and power resources and wildlife.

These involvements show Givens’ dedication to the people of Umatilla County because he takes the time not only to listen and participate at county commission and other local and regional meetings, but also at the state and national levels, where he represents his constituents.

Dean Brickley
Brookings

I urge the voters of Umatilla County to re-elect Larry Givens as our county commissioner. He has been a hard-working, hands-on commissioner who has devoted countless hours to help move Umatilla County forward.

I see no reason to change, just for the sake of change. Let’s keep what is working. Let’s re-elect Larry Givens.

Bill Hampton
Pendleton

Murdock for county commissioner

Commissioner George Murdock is the candidate with proven performance and experience. He has ample administrative skills honed over his long career. He has a steady hand in negotiations and the knowledge and expertise to lead our county towards better health and prosperity.

Commissioner George Murdock is the best choice for us, the citizens of Umatilla County.

Sally Anderson Hansell, Hermiston

Murdock surely has gray hair, but it seems to me he has shown first rate leadership on the commission because he looks for new solutions to old problems and insists on moving ahead. He shows energy of a person half his age. He reaches out to individuals and groups throughout the county. He looks at problems and at why the problems grew. He is an experienced, skilled politician in a favorable sense of the word: a leader who tries to solve problems by persuading parties that a proposal will help them and/or the larger community.

In Umatilla County, the board of commissioners has shown initiative in tackling problems. George Murdock has sparked that effort.

Mike Forrester
Pendleton

Breiling for Circuit Court

Mr. Breiling has all the skills, knowledge

and abilities to perform in this important position that upholds our constitution at the grass roots level. His legal ability has been proven in all legal matters most especially criminal law. Michael Breiling has demonstrated the judicial temperament as an individual that is concerned, decisive, open-minded, sensitive, considerate, patient, free from bias, punctual in all matters, and is committed to equal justice. His trial lawyer experience is clear and adds to his capability for the position of judge.

Most importantly, Mike Breiling is not running to fulfill his “last six years of my career.” It is clear that his early decision enter the race for judge, and at this stage of his professional career, is that he is in it for the long run to dedicate himself to ensuring consistency in our state court system.

I encourage all voters in Umatilla and Morrow counties to educate themselves on Mike Breiling and in doing so you will agree he will adhere to sound legal standards and you will join me in voting for him as Circuit Court judge.

Carl R. Culham
Athena

Rob Collins for Circuit Court judge

Next month we have the opportunity to elect Rob Collins for Circuit Court judge, a person of extensive experience and integrity in legal applications.

Rob is a practicing partner of a local, second-generation law firm, active in the community, who will serve the public in a fair and equitable manner.

Robert Lazinka
Pilot Rock

I’ve heard that one of the judicial candidates for Umatilla and Morrow counties has suggested that he is better qualified to be judge because of the large number of court appearances he’s made in the last year or so. I wouldn’t attribute any level of competence to just coming to court over and over again.

Quantity of appearances is no indication of quality of representation or of knowledge.

Join me in voting for Rob Collins. His professionalism, knowledge and experience are unsurpassed.

Kittee Custer
Milton-Freewater

I have known Rob for 35 years, both as my attorney and a friend. In that time he has demonstrated qualities that any judge should possess. Those qualities are compassion for all, integrity, experience in life and judicial issues, respect, a sense of fair play, knowledge of the law and trustworthiness.

I will miss him as my attorney, but know

he will make an excellent and fair judge.

Barbara Warner
Milton-Freewater

I have known Rob for more than 55 years, and I know that he is an excellent attorney and is a kind and caring individual that has a reputation for being honest.

I urge every voter to seriously consider who they want as a new judge and vote for someone who has grown up in Umatilla County and knows how we think and act.

Barbara Ann Wright
Pendleton

Innes for Pendleton council

It was a good day for Pendleton when Carole Innes filed to run for election to the City Council Ward 1 position.

Carole has the best attributes needed for the position. She is a very good listener with strong business, budgeting, and financial reporting skills, and she is an independent thinker — diplomatic but straightforward — with a great sense of humor. She is a passionate advocate for Pendleton and knows this community inside and out, having served in leadership, volunteer, and public service roles throughout her many years here.

Susan E. Plass
Pendleton

Every organization that Carole Innes has worked for is the better for it. She sees what needs to be done and, being no shrinking violet, she says so. She does her homework, she listens to the other opinions, gleans knowledge, and makes recommendations. She’s very bright, very fair, very persuasive, and the Pendleton City Council and the citizens of Pendleton will be the winners when she is elected.

If you live in Ward One, you’re going to have one of the best city councilors we’ve ever had representing you. But you must vote for her. I highly recommend it.

MaryAlice Ridgway
Pendleton

Rick Pullen for county commissioner

I have known Rick for many years as teacher, confidant and friend. During my tenure at BMCC I often called on Mr. Pullen to take on many differing tasks including leadership, fund raising, concert setup and many other activities.

He always worked hard and treated each task with sincerity and good humor. Rick also was well respected by students of all ages.

David Miller
Vancouver, Wash.

OTHER VIEWS

Second Amendment cannot be modified

By HOLLYJO BEERS
To the East Oregonian

The Declaration of Independence states in part: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed with certain inalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.” Inalienable. God-given. They may not be taken from me or from you.

We have the right to defend our lives and those of our families because as the Constitution states: “A well-regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.”

It cannot be changed, modified, impeached, taken away, or legislated. It is meant for the people to be able to protect themselves and their families, to help safeguard this country against foreign invaders, and to keep a tyrannical government at bay, if necessary.

The Oregon Constitution concurs. Article 1, Section 27 states in part — the people shall have the right to bear arms for the defense of themselves, and the state, but the military shall be kept in strict subordination to the civil power.”

Now is the time to stand for those inalienable rights. Our federal government is out of control. The state of Oregon is out of control. Three citizens in Oregon have decided that our God-given rights need to be modified. IP 43 and 44 usurp both

the U.S. Constitution and the Oregon Constitution. What part of “shall not be infringed” do they not understand? Section 7 of IP 43 includes the following statement: “The people hereby declare that they would have adopted this Chapter, notwithstanding the unconstitutionality, invalidity, and ineffectiveness of any one of its articles, sections, subsections, sentences, or clauses.”

We cannot afford to give them one more inch. Not one more. We the people are the rulers of this land.

We are not required, by either Constitution, to turn over our guns. We do not have to register them with the government so they are easier to confiscate. We may own as many as we like. No one can tell us what caliber or what magazine capacity we can possess. Shall not be infringed. We are law-abiding citizens. Don’t try to make us criminals with unconstitutional laws.

The time to fight is now. We are a Republic, founded on the Constitution of the United States. We are the possessors and guardians of our God-given rights which were written into that document. If the right to keep

and bear arms, instituted by God, is allowed to fall, you can be assured that the right to free speech, freedom of religion, freedom of assembly and all the rest of the Bill of Rights will fall like dominoes. It is not safety they are after or saving lives. This is about controlling who has the power. Whoever has the power controls the narrative. With what shall we fight back should they decide to denigrate the entire Bill of Rights?

We cannot afford to give them one more inch. Not one more. We the people are the rulers of this land. You either speak up or you shut up and don’t complain when you are eventually disarmed by the popular vote of those who do not understand the ramifications of disarming this country. Vote. Read your Constitution. Know your rights and don’t allow them to be unreasonably and illegally taken from you.

If you are willing to stand, attend our 2nd Amendment rally on Saturday beginning at 11 a.m. at Til Taylor Park in Pendleton. The rally has been organized by Oregon women who believe in the right to keep and bear arms. It is open to all — men and women both. Rob Lovett and I will speak about the Second Amendment, and the need to protect it.

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HollyJo Beers of Athena is a member of the Oregon Three Percenters, an American “patriot movement” that pledges resistance against the U.S. government over infringement of the Constitution.



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