

YOUR VIEWS

Oregon should join Idaho in dam proposal

I've watched the yearly ebb and flow of Union County nearly my entire life. I've come to realize it comes with uncertainty, weather dictating my neighbor's crop yields, tourist dollars our communities rely on and the annual return of Chinook and steelhead to the Grande Ronde.

With uncertainty I get a bit anxious, as we all should. Uncertainty and change are hard. As the owner of a business, Alpine Archery and Fly, I'm constantly asking myself if my inventory will move. Will I meet my sales goals and turn a profit? As a small business owner I need a profit to survive. I see the same uncertainty everywhere I look in our community.

Our communities deserve better and should demand more. We have more in common with river communities throughout Idaho's Snake River basin than you think. If not for a politically drawn line dividing us, most would identify Eastern Oregon's culture with Idaho's. The entire Snake Basin, including Union County, is in a constant state of uncertainty.

In early February, Idaho's Rep. Mike Simpson, R-Idaho, released a large, all-encompassing proposal to rebuild Northwest infrastructure and return healthy runs of salmon and steelhead — a proposal that will literally impact every community in the Northwest. Simpson is a conservative from Idaho with a long history of standing up for hunting, fishing and conservation. Simpson's concept can benefit Oregonians.

This is an opportunity to set aside decades of community infighting, some being winners, other losers. The congressman from Idaho took the priorities of the region into consideration, farming, fish and power all leading to new and renewed economic development, while restoring an icon of the Northwest: our salmon and steelhead.

But we need our Oregon delegation to step out and lead like Rep. Simpson. We need Sen. Wyden, Sen. Merkley or Rep. Bentz to join Rep. Simpson and craft legislation that helps our communities in Eastern Oregon. We need them to sit at the table with Simpson and represent us, providing certainty for our ag community, electricity market, and especially our wild salmon and steelhead.

As spring bounds in, I'm optimistic we will see change. Change that once and for all will make our communities whole, providing economic and biological certainty to all in Eastern Oregon. I'm optimistic that our Northwest delegation will show the leadership we elected them for and join the congressman from Idaho to benefit Oregon.

John Appleton
La Grande

Stokoe deserves reelection

The Port of Morrow is the second largest port in the state of Oregon and is the site for diversified industries that provide employment for some 8,400 employees.

Rick Stokoe, president of the Board of Commissioners of the Port of Morrow, is running for reelection. He deserves your vote. His name will appear on your Primary Election ballot, which you may have already received by the time you read this letter.

If the Port of Morrow commissioner race is the only position for which you vote, please vote to reelect Rick Stokoe. Since the port embraces all of Morrow County it is important to maintain geographic diversity on the commission.

Rick is employed full time as the chief of police in the city of Boardman, where he supervises 10 employees keeping the peace in the city and assisting the county sheriff in Irrigon and elsewhere when requested. Rick has been the chief in Boardman for 11 years, during his 31-year career in law enforcement.

He was appointed to the Port of Morrow Commission six years ago and has been elected to a four-year term since then, and was elected president by his peers.

Your vote to reelect Rick Stokoe to the Port of Morrow Commission is important.

Ed and Frances Glenn
Boardman



LETTERS DEADLINE FOR MAY 18 ELECTIONS

The East Oregonian does not run endorsements of more than 400 words.

The East Oregonian 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 local letters of endorsement on a first-come, first-served basis.

Please submit your endorsement letters to the editor by 5 p.m. Friday, May 7. You can email them to editor@eastoregonian.com, or mail them to East Oregonian, c/o Andrew Cutler, 211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton, 97801.

We will publish our last letters on Saturday, May 15. Any letters received after the deadline will not run. Election Day is May 18.

Retain Stokoe for Port of Morrow Commission

I have served on the port commission with Rick Stokoe and wish to attest to the valuable service his skills allow him to bring to the Port of Morrow. He was consistently open to the needs of the whole county and has much experience and expertise to offer the commission.

I feel Rick Stokoe should have the chance to continue as a Morrow County port commissioner.

Larry Lindsay
Lexington

Gregg capable of wearing many hats

I am writing today to encourage you to vote for Patrick Gregg for Position 7 on the Pendleton School District Board of Directors. As someone who served many years on this board, I believe Patrick embodies the qualities necessary to be an excellent school board member.

School board members must be able to focus on what's best for our kids while keeping in mind what's best for the teachers, the community, and the budget. They must be able to work with people who don't agree with each other, and they must dedicate a lot of time to this board alone.

Patrick has experience with kids; he has children in the district and is a Cub Scout leader. He has served on several nonprofit boards and helped manage budgets. He is a business owner and understands the importance of being fiscally sound. He has worked in mediation to calmly and without judgment reconcile conflicts between people with differing views. Patrick has done his homework, and he knows that this job takes a lot of time and effort. He is willing to put other activities aside and focus on becoming an informed and informative school board member.

It's not enough to want what's best for kids. School board members have to wear many hats, and I believe Patrick is both willing and able to do that. Join me in voting for Patrick Gregg, Position 7 Pendleton School District Board of Directors.

Michelle M. Monkman
Pendleton

Gregg invested in student success

I am writing in support for Patrick Gregg in his bid for Pendleton School Board Position 7. I know Pat both through youth activities in Pendleton, as well as through his law practice.

Pat Gregg is a dedicated volunteer for youth development in Pendleton. He is a den leader for Cub Scout Pack 745, a volunteer position in which he helps the scouts develop leadership and team-building skills. Two of Pat's three children attend Pendleton schools, and he understands firsthand the struggles that students have faced during COVID-19 school closures, as well as the reopening of schools. Pat is

invested in the long-term success of Pendleton students.

Professionally, Pat is a thoughtful listener and a strong advocate for his clients. He has demonstrated the ability to listen objectively, consider multiple perspectives to a problem, and provide practical solutions. If elected to the Pendleton School Board, we would all benefit from his legal perspective and advocacy skills.

Brent Keeler
Pendleton

Pendleton needs a team player like Gregg

The Pendleton School Board needs a strong leader dedicated our children's success. That's why Patrick Gregg deserves your vote for Position 7.

I met Patrick soon after he and his wife, Jill, moved to Pendleton to start their family 12 years ago. Patrick is invested in the education of his three children and is committed to ensuring all children in Pendleton have opportunities for success.

As an attorney/partner with Corey, Byler & Rew, LLP, Patrick understands the importance of information gathering, listening to others, and becoming well informed before developing an opinion. He is a team player who values learning from others, and knows how to keep a level head and even keel during challenging conversations.

As a father, Patrick also understands the many challenges our students, school staff, and parents endured during extreme learning conditions throughout the pandemic. He has spoken with school staff who devoted themselves to providing a quality education outside the classroom and helping students transition back to "normal," all the while trying to preserve their own mental health.

As a school board member, Patrick will dedicate himself to fully engaging with the other board members, district administration, and constituents throughout Pendleton so that he's aware of what's important to students and staff.

Patrick understands the value of an education, and the opportunities it affords students; that strong educators are critical in our children's success; and that Pendleton schools are the heart of our community.

Please vote for Patrick Gregg for Position 7 of the Pendleton School Board.

Casey White-Zollman
Pendleton

Gregg will provide a valuable perspective

I am writing in support of Patrick Gregg for the Pendleton School Board.

It is wonderful when someone of Pat's talent is willing to give back to our community in such an important way. He is a good listener and trained to think outside the box. His professional background would add a valuable perspective. He has a true passion for our community and, as a father

of three boys, he has a vested interest in making our schools and helping our youths be the best they can be.

Join me in supporting Patrick Gregg for the Pendleton School Board.

Jef Farley
Pendleton

Gregg understands the needs of Pendleton schools

We are writing in support of Patrick Gregg for Position 7 of the Pendleton School Board.

Patrick has displayed the commitment, discipline, talent and integrity necessary to become a serious professional who is widely respected by his peers, clients and within the community. More importantly, Patrick is a concerned parent and community member who understands not only the need for quality education, but also for a high-performance organization and system.

His abilities for critical thinking, combined with his compassion and respect for contrary opinions, make him a valuable resource in shaping our educational system to be forward thinking and fair.

On a leadership and development side, Patrick understands the need for supporting our teachers and staff members so they too can achieve their goals and aspirations. His communication style is open and honest, and we believe he will make a valuable addition to our school board.

As a neighbor, we are impressed with the time, effort, and patience he displays with his family.

Again, please join us in supporting Patrick Gregg for Position 7 of the Pendleton School Board.

Arne and Linda Swanson
Pendleton

Spencer cares deeply about the entire community

This letter is a hearty endorsement for Briana Spencer, who is running for Pendleton School District Board, Position 7. As a community organizer, Briana has already demonstrated that she cares deeply about grassroots organization for the well-being of the entire community.

As an elder, I am extremely impressed by her energy, organization skills, and deftness at working with multiple entities to create community outreach and to ensure human dignity for people across Eastern Oregon and Washington.

Please elect Briana Spencer to Pendleton School Board, Position 7. She will be a vital ingredient to the future of Pendleton's students and the cultural health of Umatilla County and, no doubt, beyond.

Pamela Reese
Echo

Gregg is committed to the community

We are supporting Patrick Gregg for Position 7 of the Pendleton School District Board.

He and his wife Jill are committed to this community. They have two young children in the public school system and their third will follow suit when he begins kindergarten. We feel fortunate to have someone like Patrick that wishes to give back to this community.

His young family is committed to a strong public education for all. He told me that "his own public education offered him and others many opportunities. He intends to insure that those same opportunities exist for all school age children in our community."

His wife has demonstrated strong support for students through her work in the high school Aspire program. Together they will continue to forge a strong partnership for high quality education in Pendleton.

Margaret and Bruce Gianotti
Pendleton

Stokoe keeps Morrow County moving forward

Eleven years ago I was very impressed by Rick Stokoe when he went through the interview process for the city of Boardman police chief position, and was pleased when Rick accepted the position. He has proven himself to be a tremendous community and regional leader since that time.

Rick is a true public servant, an active volunteer who has served on a variety of committees and helped with many community activities. He is a dedicated family man, married to wife Shari for 28 years. His two children are also Morrow County residents and continue to call Boardman their home. His goal is, and continues to be, "to contribute to the betterment of Morrow County in order to provide the best possible future for our citizens, children and future generations."

A thoughtful, insightful person, Rick has contributed greatly these past six years as a commissioner for the Port of Morrow. Please support and vote to reelect Rick Stokoe so that he may continue his service as a Port of Morrow commissioner, working along with all of the commissioners to keep the Port of Morrow moving forward in a positive and proactive manner.

Gary Neal
Port of Morrow executive director (retired)
Boardman

A vote for Gregg is a vote for excellence

As the mother of two Pendleton graduates, a volunteer mentor with the PHS ASPIRE program (helping students with their path after high school), and an active community member, I was thrilled to see so much interest in filling the upcoming school board vacancies. An engaged community is important for the health of our schools.

When I found out that Patrick Gregg was one of the candidates, I was even more encouraged. I have known Patrick and his family for the past 11 years, and have watched as they grew their family to three boys as he quickly advanced to partner at the local law firm of Corey, Byler & Rew.

Patrick has the qualities that I believe will serve the school district and our community well. He is whip smart, measured in his thought, and works well with others. Beyond his passion for ensuring that our schools best support our students, he is adept at understanding the nuances of education policy, curriculum assessment, funding, and the correlation between the success of our schools and standards of living in our community.

We are living in unprecedented times, and there will be hard decisions coming down the pike in response. I feel confident that Patrick Gregg is someone that can hit the ground running, helping navigate our schools to a better future. He is the son of an educator, father of school-age children, and a respected attorney who will be prepared, informed and diligent in the pursuit of an excellent school district, and ultimately, Pendleton as a thriving community.

Please join me in voting Patrick Gregg for Pendleton School Board, Position 7, ensuring that our students have a qualified advocate working hard for them.

Tiffany Hegarty
Pendleton