

Karvoski for mayor

Enterprise voters are making an important decision in the coming weeks as four candidates have stepped up to become the city’s next mayor.

The winner will be in charge of running meetings and certainly may have influence over fellow councilors. There’s also an opportunity to work closely with City Administrator Michele Young to shape the council’s agenda for years to come.

Beyond all that, the mayor also serves as the “face” of the city and as its primary ambassador.

We strongly urge Enterprise voters to elect current councilor Stacey Karvoski to fill the important role of mayor. We believe her prior experience and aptitude for administration make her the clear choice. We also believe her background in the medical profession and familiarity with our local health care district will be a valuable asset for the community, as the health care industry is so vital to our community’s citizens and its economy.

As for the rest of the Enterprise council, we endorse Larry Christman for Position 5. Mr. Christman’s past experience on council, including a stint as mayor, set him apart.

And while experience is important, a fresh perspective also can help a city grow. To that end, we’re endorsing Pastor Micah Agnew for Position 4. We’re eager to see what his unique vision might bring.

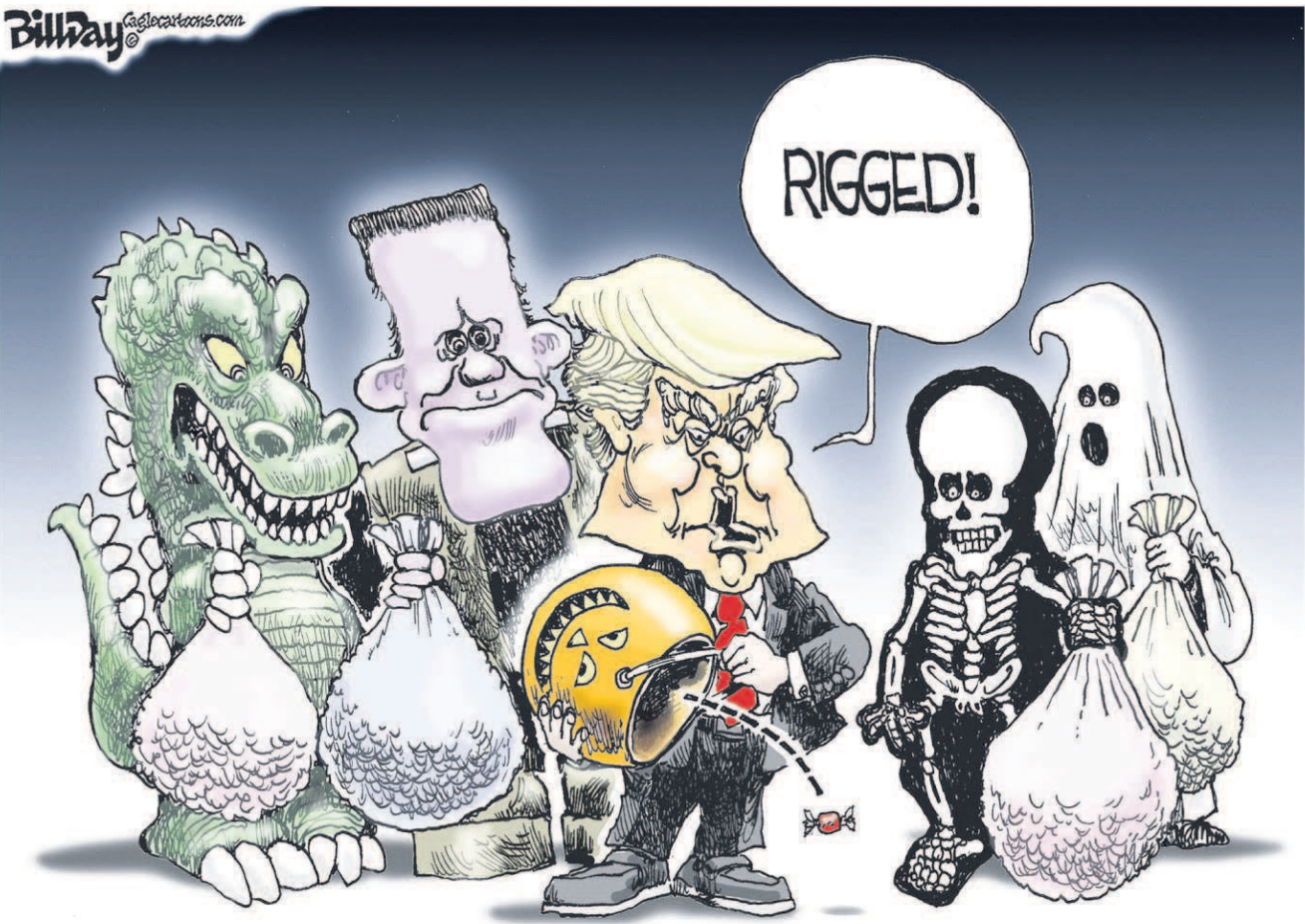
In Wallowa, we urge voters to support current councilor Garrett Lowe, who already has shown a knack for leadership and has been an early driving force in the town’s most recent revitalization efforts. We also support newcomer Shawn Sealey, whose wildlife management experience should prove useful.

In Joseph, we believe current councilor Tyler Evans should be retained. He has a solid administrative background and has shown a propensity for truly listening to his constituents. Beyond Evans, we’ll leave it to voters to select two of the three remaining candidates. We see nothing at this point to warrant our recommendation either for or against them.

— Scot Heisel

EDITORIAL

Voice of the Chieftain



Teaching yields one more lesson

Not counting my experience as a parent or volunteer, I have had three stints in teaching. The first two occurred about 20 years ago in southern Oregon and were each a year long. The most recent one was here in Wallowa County and lasted for only a month.

Back in 1996, after I had spent nearly 20 post-college years doing home construction, I enrolled at Southern Oregon University in the fifth-year elementary education program. As part of my teacher training for a K-9 certification, I served as a student teacher at Briscoe School in Ashland. There I had the opportunity to work under master teachers in their classrooms in grades 1, 3 and 4.

Briscoe was innovative and well-funded. It was located in an affluent neighborhood in a flourishing, progressive town, and most of its students were the children of young professionals. Ultimately, the thriving real estate market (“above the boulevard,” as they say in Ashland) proved to be both a blessing and a curse. Even as soaring home prices helped enable Briscoe to provide a half dozen brand new Mac computers for each classroom, those same prices eventually squeezed many young families out of



POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

John McColgan

town in search of more affordable places to live. As the town’s young population was gradually supplanted by well-to-do retirees, Briscoe and two other elementary schools in Ashland closed their doors just a few years after I had the good fortune to teach there.

My next teaching gig came immediately after my graduation from SOU. A week before the start of school, I was hired on a one-year contract to teach first grade at Central Point Elementary in a rapidly growing, blue-collar region of the Rogue Valley. Like its surrounding neighborhood, CPE did not have the same resources that I had been blessed with in Ashland. I was provided with 24 students, desks, chairs, paper and pencils. The rest was pretty much left to me to improvise.

Fortunately, I have always been an excellent scrounger, so I rounded up as many resources as I could assemble by turning to some of my cooperating teach-

ers from Briscoe and scoring whatever I could find at yard sales. I arranged a curriculum consisting of about 15 20-minute segments each school day. A month into the school year, I received math workbooks. Halfway through the year, we were finally given a new series of first-grade readers. The entire experience was very challenging for me as a beginning teacher, but when it concluded, I was pleased that my students scored very well in reading and writing, while their math scores were right about at the district average.

It came as a blow to me that I was not rehired in Central Point, and with four kids of my own still at home, I chose to return to general contracting. I continued in that work until about a year ago, when I decided that at age 60, scrambling around on rafters might no longer be a good bet for my health. When I let my contractor’s license go, I considered myself semi-retired.

But a couple of months ago, a teacher at Enterprise Elementary School asked me if I would like to apply for a position as a Title I math aide.

See LESSON, Page A5

AFTER NEXT TUESDAY

Editor’s note: *While compiling this week’s Out of the Past column, we came across this editorial from the Nov. 2, 1916 issue of the Enterprise Record Chieftain. It was published the week before the presidential election between Woodrow Wilson and C. E. Hughes. We found its message timely and decided to share it on the eve of our election 100 years later.*

Next Tuesday is Election Day, the climax of a campaign of 10 months in Oregon. Every citizen should consider it his duty to vote, and should mark his ballot all the way down for the men he believes best qualified for the offices to which they aspire.

After casting his vote, each citizen should go about his business, abiding by the result with-

out cavil and without bitterness. The winners should be accepted cordially and in good faith, as they will deserve the support of all so long as they perform their duty.

A great American campaign is a tremendous strain on everybody. It is impossible not to get interested in some of the candidates and issues, and the result generally contains some disappointments as well as some successes. But Americans are a good-humored people and have had much experience in political battles.

They take the result philosophically, the winners crowing without gloating too much, and the losers standing the raillery with a smile and many a sharp retort, and both forgetting the sharpness of the conflict in a few days.

Eastern Oregon needs Gov. Pierce

Democrat Kate Brown and Republican Bud Pierce are squaring off to become the next governor of Oregon.

Brown has filled the chair since John Kitzhaber stepped down less than two years ago. The winner of the November election will only serve for the remainder of Kitzhaber’s original term, and will be back up for election in 2018.

Brown has done some good work in her short stint at the top post — shepherding a 9 percent bump to state education funding, pushing through a tiered minimum wage hike and increasing the number of registered voters thanks to her previous work as Oregon Secretary of State. It’s clear that she has a soft spot for Eastern Oregon and Pendleton in particular, which is where she made her first out-of-Salem visit as governor and has often been at the top of her mind at debates all around the state.

But last session Brown failed to wrangle the legislature into passing a much-needed transportation package, her leadership was lacking during the creation and initial explanation of Measure 97, and

GUEST EDITORIAL

From the East Oregonian

she has been unable to make satisfactorily clear statements regarding her position on important but controversial issues such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership and a possible national monument in the Owyhees.

The only real legislative compromise she reached with Republicans at the capitol was signing House Bill 4040, which ratified the decision of ODFW to remove the gray wolf from the state list of endangered species. It was tossing a proverbial bone at the end of a session where the Democratic agenda was steamrolled through both chambers and into law.

Pierce has long stood out to us, having made a visit to our editorial board one of the first official stops of his primary campaign. Although he has never held public office, he is the intelligent, private-sector focused Republican that Eastern Oregon has been crying out for. And Pierce steers

clear of social issues that have tripped up previous GOP candidates. He has no harsh views on issues that aren’t significant to the health of our state, which should make him a viable candidate for Willamette Valley voters who realize change is needed.

Pierce’s worst moment in the campaign came in enemy territory — the City Club of Portland — where he clearly mis-spoke about domestic violence. He was jeered and booed when he said “A woman that has great education, great training, a great job, is not susceptible to this kind of abuse by men, women or anyone.”

It was wrong and he deserved to be chided. But unlike the Republican candidate for president (who Pierce thankfully disowned, although it is unlikely he will be able to run far enough from) Pierce made a straightforward and meaningful apology, listened to women and domestic violence professionals, and emerged from the scandal a more enlightened and complete candidate.

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Back Measure 97, then get involved

Regarding Oregon’s Measure 97, The New York Times says: “Measure 97 would create the biggest tide of new tax revenue in any state in the nation this year as a percentage of the budget,” and is “one of the biggest anywhere in recent history.”

At stake, as an amendment to ORS 317.90, Measure 97 would add an estimated \$3 billion annually to the state’s general fund — dollars earmarked for education, health care and senior services.

The money source would be corporations both in and outside the state that report more than \$25 million in annual revenue earned within Oregon.

To date, about \$18 million has been raised to defeat the measure, with about \$8 million raised in support.

The measure’s complexity goes well beyond the stereotypical norm of big business versus small business. The Oregon Voter’s Pamphlet offers minimal assistance — 33 pages of paid opinions, well more than any other measure, are dedicated to Measure 97. Even the supposedly independent Oregon Citizens’ Initiative Review Council in the pamphlet is split by a vote of 11-9 in narrowly backing the measure.

LETTERS to the EDITOR

Some argue the measure is poorly written because state government is given no guidelines on how to spend all that new money. That’s fair, but for democracy to work, we the people have to speak out loud and clear and assist governance. If not, \$3 billion and even more won’t be enough to stop the bleeding.

I say vote “yes,” become active and help reverse the current trend away from democracy.

Rocky Wilson
Wallowa

Measure 97 doesn’t add up for some families

This is another effort to financially attack families that can least afford it. The firms directly affected are providers of food, gas, insurance, clothing, electricity, phone services and medical care.

It is anticipated to generate approximately \$3 billion in additional state rev-

enue, paid for by corporate America’s shareholders, investors and consumers. The non-partisan Legislative Revenue Office’s study found that although the measure doesn’t result in a direct sales tax, it would cost the average Oregon family \$600 per year through increased product costs.

Since the most recent population count shows a little more than 1.5 million families, this would provide only \$900 million per year, a \$2.1 billion shortfall. Common sense would dictate shareholders and investors to abandon firms with higher relative overhead, forcing corporations to pass this tax on to the consumers.

Consumers would be responsible for the entire bill in the form of higher living costs.

Either the assumptions of this tax revenue are optimistic or the family cost will increase to cover the \$2.1 billion shortfall to \$1,800 per average family.

The voters of Oregon are being misled as to the probably outcome of this measure. Vote “no” on Measure 97.

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