

Ballot Continued from A1

Greg Wooldridge (R): Wooldridge, a public speaker by profession, served in the Navy and describes himself as pro-life and in favor of the Second Amendment. He lists his priorities as improving education, growing the economy and restoring trust in

the government.

David Stauffer (R): Stauffer graduated from the University of Chicago with a BA and has an MBA from the University of Portland. He describes himself as the "solutions candidate" and states that he has, "an invention that provides fresh, clean water for irrigation, fire suppression and drinking to eastern and southern Oregon."

Jeff Smith (R): A computer programmer, Smith grew up on a cattle ranch and states he has been a republican for 36 years. According to the information he provided for the voter pamphlet, he, "has only one issue—winning!" He states the key to winning it focusing on issues such as high medical bills and education.

Bruce Cuff (R): A realtor, Cuff has a degree in political science and has served as a Sunday school teacher. He supports eliminating business taxes, returning land-use decisions to counties and school choice.

Sam Carpenter (R): Carpenter describes himself as job producer who is a strong supporter of the "Trump-Pence agenda." He states he is passionate about limited government and promotes a "level-headed" timber policy. He also states

he believes in cutting taxes and limiting regulations to promote economic growth.

Current governor Kate Brown is running unopposed in the primary.

Congressional District 4

Jo Rae Perkins (R): Perkins is a small business owner with a background in financial planning and states her focus is on the federal debt, gun ownership (retaining the Second Amendment), health care and insurance (repealing the Affordable Care Act) and immigration ("build the wall").

Court Boice (R): Current Curry County Commissioner. Boice states that his focus is on honoring veterans and seniors, public safety and law enforcement and protecting our natural resources through wiser usage.

Stefan G. Strek (R): Currently works in the financial aid office at the University of Oregon and was a former candidate for Eugene mayor. He states that "Winners don't use Plan B. Success is a life decision" and that he is self-financed. He states that he attended President Donald Trump's inauguration and has "Catholic values."

Arthur Robinson (R): Robinson describes himself as a scientist,

educator and businessman. He is running on a platform of fiscal responsibility, securing the border and protecting the unborn.

Peter DeFazio (D): Current U.S. Representative. DeFazio states he has voted against every congressional pay raise and has not accepted a pay raise. He is running on a platform to address health care costs, improving veteran care and investing in infrastructure.

East Lane Commissioner

Heather Buch: Buch is a small business owner who states she is running for the seat because she has "a unique set of professional and life experiences that (we) don't currently have on our commission board." Buch states her focus is on affordable housing.

James Barber: The candidate describes himself as "a regular guy" who noted during a candidate forum held on April 17 that he decided to run when the commission voted itself a pay raise. He is running on a platform to fund the sheriff's department, combat climate change and create affordable housing.

Gary Williams: Current East Lane Commissioner, Williams was appointed to the seat after former commissioner Faye Stewart stepped down to take

a position with the city of Cottage Grove. Williams has the endorsement of Sheriff Byron Trapp and is running on a platform that includes combating homelessness and "ensuring elderly residents receive services they need."

Tim Laue: Business owner Laue has served on the Eugene City Council and was the chair of the Eugene Police Commission. He also serves as a Court Appointed Special Advocate for children in the court system. He states his focus is safety and security, elders and access to homecare workers, tax reform and PERS.

Kevin Matthews: Matthews is running on a platform of banning aerial spray, animal welfare, combating climate change and improving education. A horse ranch owner, Matthews has earned the endorsement of the Cottage Grove Blackberry Pie Society.

Frank King: King graduated from the University of North Carolina and his platform includes improving mental health services. As of April 20, was the only candidate who had yet to register a fundraising committee.



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Offbeat Continued from A4

as the ne plus ultra of trashiness and vice.

The most damaging bit of testimony, though, came from young Eddie Belding, Alfred's six-year-old son.

"He talked to me and kissed me, and said I had better go in the house," the little tyke testified. "Then he shot the man on the porch, and went inside and shot some more. I saw him shoot Mamma and heard Grandma say 'Oh!' Then he wrestled with Grandpa and shot at me."

And it was lost on no one that, having murdered (or, in Lemuel's case, tried to murder) Eddie's entire family, he had coldly crossed the street for a drink in a bar, leaving his six-year-old son to deal with the loss of his "mamma and grandma" in whatever way he might.

Even today, in far less blood-thirsty times, even a stellar lawyer would be hard-pressed to keep a defendant like that from drawing a death penalty.

In 1902, it was a no-brainer. Prosecutor George Chamberlain (the future governor and U.S. Senator) had only charged him with one of the three murders, holding the other two in reserve in case something should go wrong with the case. But he need not have bothered. The jury was out for less than an hour before coming back in and declaring the young rake guilty.

While waiting in jail for the inevitable appeals to be heard, Belding's blood finally started to cool, and his bravado slipped away. In desperation he hatched a scheme to escape. His young mistress, Cora Dawson, had been coming to see him frequently, and the jailers had started to get a little careless about searching her. She could, he figured, smuggle all sorts of things into the joint for him.

So he slipped a note to a fellow prisoner who was about to be released, to be given to a friend. It asked the friend to buy

about \$50 worth of guns and bullets and hide them in a place where he could get to them; then, to give Cora a package containing ground cayenne pepper and two heavy blackjacks. The friend was to ask Cora to blow the pepper in the guards' faces to blind them, grab the keys, let Belding and his cellmate out, and give them the blackjacks. They would then clobber their way to freedom, retrieve the guns, and start a glorious new life on the lam, like Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid or something.

But the cops found the note. So they made plans to be ready when Cora showed up the next time. But, unfortunately, the Oregonian burned them by publishing the details of the attempt before it was made (scooping the upstart Oregon Journal, which respected the embargo and waited to publish until the following day). Cora, who said no one had said anything about

the plan to her, was mortified, and left for San Francisco the next day, never to return.

Finally, on March 27, 1903, the Supreme Court having affirmed the verdict, Alfred Lester Belding mounted the scaffold and was hanged. He declined to say anything, but left behind a letter in which he expressed no contrition for what he had done.

"Why should I not prefer to see her (Sylvia) in the grave than know that she was living in shame?" he wrote.

Little six-year-old Eddie apparently wasn't a factor for him when he made that choice.




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