

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Taylor keeps voters informed on stance

Last week, I opened the Oregon Family Council Voter's Guide to see that Commissioner Jennifer Wheeler declined to answer their questions. The Oregon Family Council polls candidates on issues that matter to many voters. Wheeler does not fill out any of these types of questionnaires. This is unfortunate, because many rely on these guides to make informed voting decisions.

Her opponent, Terrence Taylor, has no difficulty letting voters know where he stands on issues that matter to me. Perhaps it's a good year to turn out incumbents and elect representatives that are more up front with constituents.

Jim Cross  
Dallas

### Jones is a winning combo for District 23

With the upcoming election and the issues on the table, we are glad to know that Beth Jones is a candidate we can get behind to work for the people of Polk County and Oregon as state representative for District 23. Beth's conservative views, coupled with her compassion for the people of our community, give her what we hope is a winning combination. We have personally seen Beth's work and vision accomplish much and inspire others to move when they would otherwise be complacent. Beth is full of integrity. She is the kind of person we need in the House.

Dave and Amy Bertolini  
Dallas

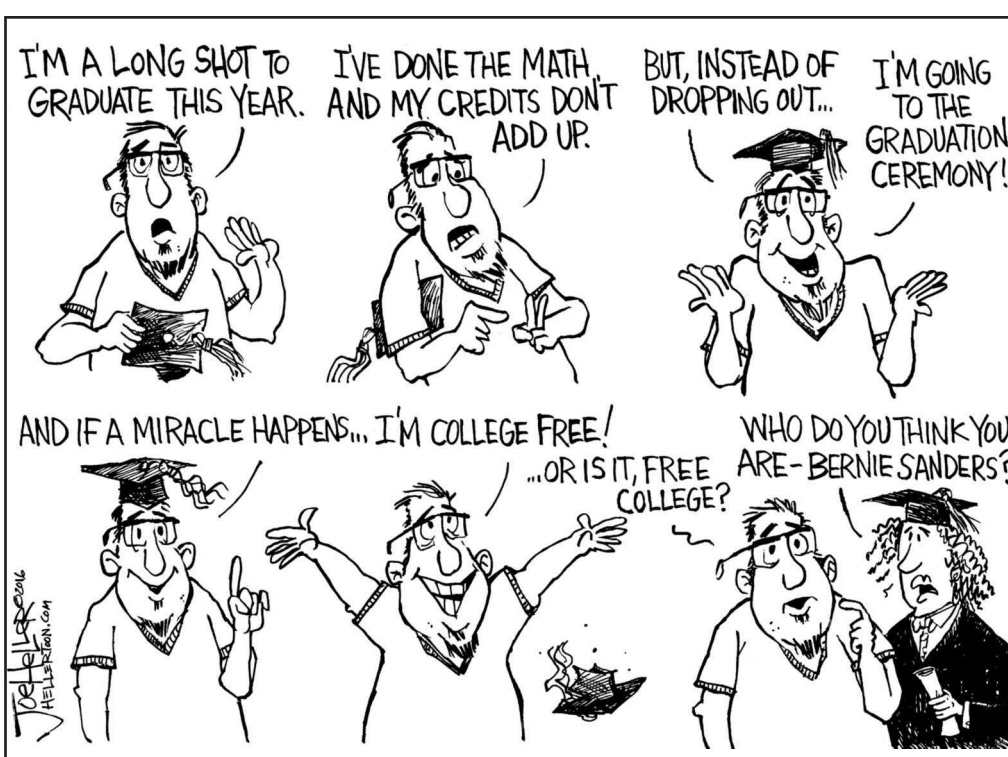
### Have an old flag? Call the Legion

Every day many families and businesses throughout Polk County fly American flags, but what can you do with a flag that is old, torn, ripped, faded, and no longer able to be flown? If you think throwing them out is the answer, please consider the American Legion Post 20 and American Legion Auxiliary Unit 20. We will take that old flag off your hands and retire it with honors. Every year the American Legion here in Dallas retires old flags that we have gathered throughout the year. It would be our privilege to take your old flag and help it into retirement. For more information or if you have a flag you would like to be retired, please contact the post: Joe Lillibridge at 503-480-6274, or Beth Lillibridge at 503-480-6254.

Beth A. Lillibridge  
Dallas

### Jones has what it takes to lead

Being retired has allowed me an opportunity to get a bit more involved in our community. I've known Beth Jones a few years; her knowledge base and ability to get things accomplished is amazing. Her heart for the people and her desire to make life better for those in



need is not a campaign "show." I have been to the debates. Beth Jones puts actions behind her words; Nearman skirted around many topics up for discussion. Vote for the person that will listen to and stand up for us all. Beth Jones for State Representative of House District 23.

Linda Wilds-Vanecek  
Dallas

### Has streets money been misused?

In the recent weeks the mayor of Portland has come out and stated that the money Portland has used to fix its streets has been used to fund other projects. This is why they are asking for a gas tax increase.

So my question is: Is the city of Dallas in the same position? Has the mayor and city manager used the funds for our streets to fund other projects in the city of Dallas? If the answer is yes, then why do you feel it is necessary to go to the residents and ask for a bond measure?

David Christensen  
Independence

### Cyclist finds streets in good condition

I am somewhat surprised to see the support for the street bond. As one who has cycled over many of the streets of Dallas, I wish to share my impression of their condition. If anything, cyclists feel poor streets even more than motorists do. Apart from a few short stretches, the streets in Dallas are, in my opinion, in commendably good condition. In fact I have been surprised that sometimes those in better condition are "repaired" while some poorer portions are neglected.

Rodney Stent  
Dallas

### Helping is the norm for Wheeler

Over the years, I had heard many positive things about Jennifer Wheeler and the work that she has done for the people of Polk County. Until recently, I had not met her in person.

The Mid-Valley Winter Ag Fest took place in late February. Jennifer found time in her busy schedule to work as a volunteer. When it became clear Saturday that

the event was unstaffed, she stayed working long after her time elapsed.

This is the norm for her, not the exception. Jennifer Wheeler shows up.

She deserves our vote on Tuesday.

Deb Thomas  
Independence

### Seniors deserve better choices

I'm so glad to see someone running to oppose (Mike) Nearman. When I tried to get legislation to protect seniors from abuse and exploitation, he was weak, vacillating and useless. We deserve better.

Bert Copp  
Monmouth

### Longtime helper retries from LMS

Much to my deep regret, I need to end my volunteer position (at LaCreole Middle School) after many years. I have done office work, graded tests, checked out books to students, wrapped new books and mended those that needed preserving for longer use, and filed returned books to the shelves.

I have spent most of these years in the library. I must thank my mentor, Cheryl Scott, for showing me the ropes. I thank Jim Pauls, the librarian, for putting up with my many questions and often interrupting him at his busy jobs.

I also need to thank Cheri Gallino for allowing me to help her these past two years, as much as she would let me. She did most everything herself and didn't take a break, which frustrated me no end.

Many moons ago, in cold weather, I had car trouble and, in nothing flat, Candy Smith, Alice Struckmeier and Mike, the custodian, had on their coats and came to my rescue. I shall never forget that; and of course, when Mike put the key in the ignition, the car started and I was able to get out of the way of other vehicles coming and going.

Thanks also to the teachers and aides in the special education classroom. They were so friendly to me.

In fact, all of the staff and teachers I met are great.

I have enjoyed my time there, and I will miss everyone. I knew it was Monday

morning. Candy always answered me when I asked before I signed in.

It has been my privilege to enjoy my mornings, and I encourage others to volunteer and help at school if you ever get the chance. It's been an experience I'll always cherish. I am hoping to visit and perhaps bring some goodies with me.

Myra Moore  
Dallas

### Jones would seek answers for district

Vote for Beth Jones for state representative, House District 23.

I've not known Beth Jones as long as many. She has been and is very active in our community and district on many levels. She's a problem solver who seeks answers for solutions.

Because of Beth, there is a nonprofit called Bambinos which assists many in our community by supplying diapers, wipes and sometimes formula or food in times of need. They also help with sports and activity scholarships.

She is a caring, charismatic lady who isn't afraid of challenges and will do an incredible job.

Deanna Rhoades  
Dallas

### Taylor has what it takes for county

Too often in politics, it is not what your abilities are, but who you know. In contrast, Terrence Taylor, candidate for County Commissioner Position 1, will bring to the table Fortune 500

company executive level budgetary and planning experience, creative thinking, and common sense. He will be a voice for fiscal restraint with public safety and road maintenance his top priorities. Additionally, he is opposed to the farming and distribution of marijuana in unincorporated county areas which Jennifer Wheeler, in tandem with Craig Pope, voted for.

A vote for Terrence is a vote for family values and responsible governance.

Rose Bajorins  
Falls City

### Thompson rational choice for HD 23

Voters of Oregon's House District 23 will have a real choice to make in the primary. Jim Thompson, a highly regarded (by both parties), representative for District 23, was "primaried" by a group of right-wingers who used the fact that few voters turned out in the primary to effect his defeat.

Thompson is running as an independent Party candidate. The Democratic Party has no candidate, so these voters are voting for Jim Thompson.

Simply write Jim Thompson in on your ballot for District 23 and mark the adjacent bubble. A rational choice when we really need one.

Fred Brown  
Dallas

### Street bond is no-brainer: vote yes

It is a no-brainer to fix the streets.

Dallas is a great city, one that prides itself on keeping up with priorities. Streets are, and have been, on the high priority list for a long time, and it is time to take it off that list and do something about that, and the time is now.

In the case of street repairs, this major priority has been put aside for way too long. Now we have what we have.

Streets are way below the PCI levels. Do the right thing. It is a no-brainer. Simply vote yes.

Murray Stewart  
Dallas

### City needs to budget better

I have yet to be convinced that the new tax dol-

lars are needed instead of just being wanted. Annually, the city receives \$1.1 million in gas tax revenue, 24 percent is used for repair and 76 percent is spent on overhead.

The city council subsidizes many city services with our general tax dollars but has said no to roads. The city estimates a cost of \$26,000 per mile to repair roads or \$1,430,000 annually.

Yet the city council has only budgeted \$270,000. We need budget policies which ensure money is available to maintain our roads not a new levy.

Jim Williams  
Dallas

### Jones will find good solutions

Recently I attended the Beth Jones/ Mike Nearman debate. Jones knows the 23rd district, the issues that challenge it, and is willing to work on both sides of the aisle to find solutions to those problems. As a moderate Republican, I appreciated that Jones was willing to look at the issues, repercussions, and long-term effects before blindly supporting them. In a state house that is dominated by Democrats, I feel that Jones' honest, forthright, and agreeable nature will carry our district much further than Nearman's close-minded attitude of stubbornly sticking to his side of the aisle.

Joyce Garland  
Dallas

### It's time to repair Dallas streets

Dallas neighborhood streets were constructed in the 1940s and 1950s and were not designed for the traffic they now endure. Thousands of vehicles are now driving on our neighborhood streets every day.

Imagine your 20-year roof is now 27 years old and it needs patching or replacing. Our streets are the same way and have outlived their lives of 70 to 80 years. Our streets need repairing or replacing too.

Please vote yes in support of repairing our neighborhood streets. Voting yes shows your pride in making Dallas a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

Ken Woods  
Dallas

## WANT TO WRITE A LETTER?

Letters to the editor are limited to 300 words. Longer letters will be edited.

Election-related letters of all types are limited to 100 words. Writers are limited to one election-related letter per election season. Election letters from writers outside of Polk County are not accepted.

Each writer is restricted to one letter per 30-day period.

Letters that are libelous, obscene or in bad taste will not be printed. Attacks by name on businesses or individuals will not be printed.

Letters to the editor that are obvious promotions for a business, products or services will not be printed.

The *Itemizer-Observer* does

not guarantee the accuracy of facts presented by letter writers; dissenters are welcome to respond. Letter writers who disagree with other published letter writers should maintain a civil discourse and address the subject, not the author.

Letters, like all editorial material submitted to the newspaper, are edited for length, grammar and content.

Letters must include the author's name, address and telephone number. This includes letters submitted via the *I-O's* website. Names and cities of residence are published; street addresses and telephone numbers are used for verification purposes only.

Letters must be submitted

from individuals, not organizations, and must be original submissions to the *I-O*, not copies of letters sent to other media.

Letters of thanks to businesses, individuals and organizations are limited to 10 names.

The deadline for letters to the editor is 10 a.m. Monday. Letters submitted may not be retractable after this deadline.

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