

In governor's race, Pierce has the edge

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 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. 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 misspoke 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.

His ardent desire for improving Eastern Oregon is clear, his stance against Measure 97 is in the best interest of the state, and his tax plans and budget show the fiscal responsibility that Oregon needs to have when the economy is humming along.

We're constantly looking for ways to break the single-party rule that currently exists in Salem. A Republican at the top of it all would certainly do that, and Pierce is a smart, capable candidate who would handle the job and bring some balance to the tilted capitol.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The coming election

To the Editor:
It's time to think long and hard about your future or the potential lack of one.

Our country is on the brink of an economic breakdown. When this happens, your job or source of income will be lost or seriously diminished. This didn't just happen. It is the result of 40 years of short-sighted, wrong-headed thinking.

The world has been bombarded by the environmental movement. It is a noble thing to be concerned for the environment around us, but if a little is good, never-ending move is not better.

The slogan "Save the Earth" has swept the Earth, but few know or think of the other half of the equation: No life can exist unless we use the earth and harvest its produce and resources.

Thus, the industries that harvest our food, timber and minerals are the foundation of our economy. You must know that no business, industry or job can continue without these resources.

Also know that all new wealth comes from the ground. There is no other source.

Every time we enact a new regulation that restricts access and use of the land and set aside another area to just look at or protect some bird, bug, fish or animal, we stop some productive use and take another bite out of our economy.

We have over-extended our regulations and land withdrawals to the point our country can no longer support itself. Those economic restrictions are bringing on our economic troubles and perhaps the end of America as we know it.

Our area is in the unique position to blunt some of these troubles if we act and think right. The mineral resources of our area are sufficient to provide jobs that will allow many miners to support their families and many local merchants.

If we are to survive this crisis, we must change the actions and thinking of our government to allow the workers of our country to produce the necessities of life. So use your vote carefully.

Kenneth Anderson
Baker City

Unacceptable campaign behavior

To the Editor:

This election year is not like any other I have witnessed, from the national presidential to the county sheriff. The constant smearing and degrading remarks are leaving wounds across the United States that I am not sure we will bounce back from. It's so sad that it takes devastating blows for us to come together. We used to be able to campaign and back our pick for office without defaming and constant, nasty remarks being published. The world has become a very scary place over the past 16 years with terrorism becoming a daily event. To think it could not or will not touch our small county would not be a wise thought. The use of the internet and social media sites have allowed us to become vicious titans

because we don't have to look those we are attacking in the eye. My family was among the first citizens to help settle this county. I have never lived anywhere else; this is my home. I have seen many changes, some good and some bad, over the years. What I have seen lately is unacceptable; the taking of campaign signs, the smearing remarks published on the internet and in our local paper, the smearing campaign set forth by the Oregonian reporter. Smearing one another is very unbecoming and will not serve in our best interest in the long run. Not one of us is perfect. Long after the elections are over, we will need to continue being neighbors and help each other through rough times and celebrating the good. Don't tear each other apart with false accusations and berating comments that will lead to harsh feelings that cannot be forgiven.

Rusty Clark
Monument

Palmer not performing duties in sheriff job description

To the Editor:

Here is part of the job description for Grant County sheriff, as supported by the Constitutions and constitutional law of the United States and the state of Oregon. The full description is available from the County Clerk's office.

"... 6) As Emergency Services Director, develops, maintains and administers plans and programs to ensure emergency preparedness in the County; maintains liaison with fire departments/ districts, police agencies, public works departments, schools, public utilities and other organizations in the County useful in limiting the effects of disasters.

7) Negotiates and administers contracts for service with other jurisdictions/agencies.

8) Coordinates with other law enforcement agencies to insure adequate, quality service to the public.

9) Maintains and/or oversees the maintenance of appropriate records and prepares reports related to departmental programs and activities. ..."

Sadly, Sheriff Palmer has declined to fulfill these duties on multiple occasions. To name a few:

- In 2011, he left 7 and 8 unfulfilled by refusing to work with USFS and spreading baseless stories about USFS workers; when he was fact-checked by his opponent at election time, he denied the John Day police access to his office, further damaging interagency cooperation and potentially endangering the public.
- He let those same duties go undone during the takeover of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. Other law enforcement organizations sent officers to assist Sheriff Ward. Palmer sent none, and supported the illegal occupiers so blatantly that other LEOs didn't dare inform him of their attempts to enforce the law.
- This pattern of non-cooperation with other agencies has led many to doubt Palmer's ability to fulfill point 6, and our county may be less able to respond to disasters as a result.

- Recently, with his conflicting claims about destroying public records and his refusal to comply with public records requests, he has cast doubt on his fulfillment of point 9.

Someone who refuses to perform any of the clearly defined duties of a job should resign or be fired; someone who will perform those duties should have the job. Todd McKinley has promised to perform all the duties of the Grant County sheriff. I'm voting for him.

Janine Goodwin
Prairie City

Measure 97 'bad for business, bad for Oregon'

To the Editor:

I oppose Measure 97, gross receipts tax. Passing the measure will tax corporations with gross revenues over \$25 million at a rate of 2.5 percent. Supporters of the measure would have you believe that this only impacts corporate giants. Wrong! Basic economics and more importantly basic common sense tells you costs associated with tax will be passed along to customers: you and I.

Supporters want you to believe the revenue this thinly veiled sales tax puts in Oregon's coffers will be used for education, emergency and senior services. Don't be fooled; the measure doesn't say that it will go to these areas. It goes into the general fund and is discretionary funds for legislators.

M-97 supporters claim it will add \$6 billion per biennium to the state coffers, above the existing \$18 billion budget. Does it make sense to increase by 1/3 the funds available for the legislature? No! If the state needs 33.3 percent more revenue to remain viable, it's not an income issue, rather a spending issue.

Fiscal problems aren't solved by piling taxes (expenses) on the citizens and businesses of Oregon. M-97 would have the heaviest impact on those least able to afford it. According to OPB, "The Legislative Revenue Office estimated the measure would cost households \$372 to \$1,282 annually, depending on income level. Most would be in higher prices, some would represent lost wages." The average LRO estimate is \$600 annually per household.

M-97 limits economic growth. Why would a company looking to expand or add jobs to a region come here when their costs will be at least 2.5 percent higher (more considering vendors along the supply chain) than locating elsewhere? They won't. More critically, what keeps existing corporations from leaving Oregon?

No matter your frustration with the political landscape — how tired you are picking between candidates that don't reflect your ideals — don't ignore your ballot. The fight against M-97 cannot be "someone else's" issue. It's an issue for every Oregonian. Join me in voting no on Measure 97. It's bad policy, bad for business, bad for Oregon.

Jeff Bailey
Heppner

See LETTERS, Page A5

WHERE TO WRITE

GRANT COUNTY

- **Grant County Courthouse** — 201 S. Humbolt St., Suite 280, Canyon City 97820. Phone: 541-575-0059. Fax: 541-575-2248.
- **Canyon City** — P.O. Box 276, Canyon City 97820. Phone: 541-575-0509. Fax: 541-575-0515. Email: tocc1862@centurylink.net.
- **Dayville** — P.O. Box 321, Dayville 97825. Phone: 541-987-2188. Fax: 541-987-2187. Email: dville@ortelco.net
- **John Day** — 450 E. Main St, John Day, 97845. Phone: 541-575-0028. Fax: 541-575-1721. Email: cityjd@centurytel.net.
- **Long Creek** — P.O. Box 489, Long Creek 97856. Phone: 541-421-3601. Fax: 541-421-3075. Email: info@cityoflongcreek.com.
- **Monument** — P.O. Box 426, Monument 97864. Phone and fax: 541-934-2025. Email: cityofmonument@centurytel.net.
- **Mt. Vernon** — P.O. Box 647, Mt. Vernon 97865. Phone: 541-932-4688. Fax: 541-932-4222. Email: cmtv@ortelco.net.
- **Prairie City** — P.O. Box 370, Prairie City 97869. Phone: 541-820-3605. Fax: 820-3566. Email: pchall@ortelco.net.
- **Seneca** — P.O. Box 208, Seneca 97873. Phone and fax: 541-542-2161. Email: senecaoregon@gmail.com.

SALEM

- **Gov. Kate Brown, D** — 254 State Capitol, Salem 97310. Phone: 503-378-3111. Fax: 503-378-6827. Website: www.governor.state.or.us/governor.html.
- **Oregon Legislature** — State Capitol, Salem, 97310. Phone: (503) 986-1180. Website: www.leg.state.or.us (includes Oregon Constitution and Oregon Revised Statutes).

- **State Rep. Cliff Bentz, R-Ontario** (District: 60), Room H-475, State Capitol, 900 Court St. N.E., Salem OR 97301. Phone: 503-986-1460. Email: rep.cliffbentz@state.or.us. Website: www.leg.state.or.us/bentz/home.htm.
- **State Sen. Ted Ferrioli, R** — (District 30) Room S-223, State Capitol, Salem 97310. Phone: 503-986-1950. Email: sen.tedferrioli@state.or.us. Email: TFER2@aol.com. Phone: 541-490-6528. Website: www.leg.state.or.us/ferrioli.
- **Oregon Legislative Information** — (For updates on bills, services, capitol or messages for legislators) — 800-332-2313.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

- **The White House**, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20500; Phone-comments: 202-456-1111; Switchboard: 202-456-1414.
- **U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, D** — 516 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington D.C. 20510. Phone: 202-224-5244. Email: wayne_kinney@wyden.senate.gov Website: http://wyden.senate.gov Fax: 202-228-2717.
- **U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley, D** — 313 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington D.C. 20510. Phone: 202-224-3753. Email: senator@merkley.senate.gov. Fax: 202-228-3997. Oregon offices include One World Trade Center, 121 S.W. Salmon St., Suite 1250, Portland, OR 97204; and 310 S.E. Second St., Suite 105, Pendleton, OR 97801. Phone: 503-326-3386; 541-278-1129. Fax: 503-326-2990.
- **U.S. Rep. Greg Walden, R** — (Second District) 1404 Longworth Building, Washington D.C. 20515. Phone: 202-225-6730. No direct email because of spam. Website: www.walden.house.gov Fax: 202-225-5774. Medford office: 14 North Central, Suite 112, Medford, OR 97501. Phone: 541-776-4646. Fax: 541-779-0204.



Grant County's Weekly Newspaper

PUBLISHER MARISSA WILLIAMS, MARISSA@BMEAGLE.COM
EDITOR SEAN HART, EDITOR@BMEAGLE.COM
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT JACKIE OSBORNE, JACKIE@BMEAGLE.COM
REPORTER RYLAN BOGGS, RYLAN@BMEAGLE.COM
COMMUNITY NEWS ANGEL CARPENTER, ANGEL@BMEAGLE.COM
SPORTS ANGEL CARPENTER, ANGEL@BMEAGLE.COM
MARKETING REP KIM KELL, ADS@BMEAGLE.COM
OFFICE MANAGER LINDSAY BULLOCK, OFFICE@BMEAGLE.COM

1 YEAR SUBSCRIPTION RATES
(including online access)
 Grant County\$40
 Everywhere else in U.S.\$51
 Outside Continental U.S.\$60
 Subscriptions must be paid prior to delivery

Periodicals Postage Paid at John Day and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER
send address changes to:
Blue Mountain Eagle
195 N. Canyon Blvd.
John Day, OR 97845-1187

USPS 226-340

www.facebook.com/MyEagleNews @MyEagleNews

Copyright © 2016 Blue Mountain Eagle
 All rights reserved. No part of this publication covered by the copyright hereon may be reproduced or copied in any form or by any means — graphic, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, taping or information storage and retrieval systems — without written permission of the publisher.