

LETTERS

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Vote for integrity

To the Editor:

For the open county commissioner position, our community needs a person who has been a positive contributor to the community in numerous ways, is kind and highly competent and speaks and acts with integrity. Vote for Gordon Larson.

Victoria Thompson
Mt. Vernon

Myers for county judge

To the Editor:

Scott Myers is the most qualified, experienced candidate for the position of county judge. The voters of Grant County have expressed that view over the past 17-plus years, and it remains true now. His commitment is evident in his steady, fair, nonpartisan conduct and thorough understanding of legitimate issues.

During each of his four terms, his knowledge, experience and dedication have continued to grow in depth and value. Those are assets too important to cast aside in the coming election. It takes time to develop the working knowledge and relationships necessary to conduct the county's business efficiently and effectively — time Grant County doesn't have to waste during this critical point in our history.

The list of responsibilities is long and complicated: a complex landscape of budgets, public safety, human resources, labor laws, emergency management, infrastructure issues, critical boards and committees, communication and public meeting laws.

Myers' long-term investment in learning and steadfastly applying himself to fulfilling those responsibilities is essential to the viability of our county. At the local, state, regional and national levels, Judge Myers represents our county in our best light — honoring our rich history while looking forward to a sustainable future.

This position is so much more than a persona; it is a serious undertaking and should be entrusted to the most qualified, most prepared candidate, Scott Myers.

Lindsay Rausch
Prairie City

Are you aware of John Day's Urban Renewal District?

To the Editor:

Are you aware that the John Day City Council has approved an Urban Renewal District (URD) and established an Urban Renewal Agency (URA) and they have scheduled to adopt the URD during their June 12 city council meeting? The URD is being adopted under the guise of increasing growth, increasing property tax revenue and increasing available housing stock.

The URD includes a housing incentive program for new homes (7 percent) and remodels (up to 15 percent) within the URD's boundary. This is my primary cause for concern as I explain below.

There must be clear and firm criteria established to when and how these new

homes/remodels will qualify for the incentive. The first qualifying criteria must be having a building permit issued after the city's adoption of the URD to eliminate the appearance of favoritism or conflict of interest.

The incentive is paid by the city of John Day taxpayers with the expectation to recoup the funds over a six- to seven-year period.

Once the qualifying new home/remodel is placed on the tax rolls, property taxes collected will go directly to the URD to refund the city and only then be distributed to other county taxing entities provided this is addressed in the final charter.

The county, Blue Mountain Hospital, Extension Services and 4-H, Mid County Cemetery, John Day/Canyon City Parks and Recreation District, ESD, School District 3, and the city of John Day General Fund will lose their opportunity to collect their share of property taxes on the qualified home/remodel until the city of John Day recoups their funds.

As you can infer, this has the elements of both a no-cost loan and rebate program.

This will increase tax assessor's office workload as well as that of the city of John Day.

The city will lose the opportunity to earn interest and availability of these funds to achieve other needs.

Please address all inquiries regarding the URD to the John Day City Council as they will be approving the adoption of the URD.

Louis E. Provencher
John Day

Vote for Hamsher

To the Editor:

Jim Hamsher grew up believing community service was a good thing and also his responsibility. Now Jim wants to serve the citizens of Grant County as county court judge.

As the third-term mayor of Prairie City, he took on major problems, and worked with the people to solve them in the way that was most beneficial to the community. Jim and the council have recently awarded an almost \$2 million dollar contract for their sewer project with no increase to sewer rates.

They have doubled the volume in one of the wells and are currently drilling a new well, with no water rate hike to the citizens this year. A new cell tower will help pay those water rates.

Every home has fiber optics with Prairie City having the best internet in the county. School enrollment is increasing, a new business is opening up and there is new housing.

Jim has been president of the rodeo for many years and was instrumental in bringing bull fighting to the county fair, a real crowd pleaser and filling the stands.

Jim started Hay For Grant County to help burned out ranchers feed their livestock and to this day is still operating, even sending hay out of state for victims of fire. Jim Hamsher believes a strong voice is needed to counteract legislation coming from Salem that adversely affects Grant County's agriculture and timber industries.

He wants to put our people back to work. Jim is passionate about our veterans and is an outspoken advo-

cate for them.

Jim Hamsher has proven he can tackle the big problems, bring diverse people to the table and work together for the common welfare of Grant County. My vote is for Jim Hamsher.

Patti Yellow Hand Bull
Monument

Hamsher for county judge

To the Editor:

I attended the candidate forum and was struck by a remarkable difference in the way the county judge candidates introduced themselves.

Jim Hamsher does not need copious notes to speak in front of a large crowd of Grant County residents. He did not have a prepared speech with a list of his accomplishments to tell us every committee he has served on.

Jim simply stood and spoke from the heart of his concern for the survival of our communities and way of life.

Since Jim does not toot his own horn, here is a list of some of his accomplishments: He is a Grant County commissioner and has served three terms as mayor of Prairie City; former Prairie City councilman; Prairie City Budget Committee; Association of Oregon Counties Federal Lands Management Steering Committee member; Association of Oregon Counties Veterans Affairs Steering Committee member; G.R.E.A.T board member; chairperson of the League of Oregon Cities, Small Cities Council; Prairie City Senior Center board member; and president of the Grant County NPRA Rodeo Committee and longtime Grant County Rodeo Committee chairperson.

Jim organized the hay drive to help those who had livestock and the forage was destroyed by the Canyon Creek fire.

Jim wants to see "a new start for Grant County. Our residents cannot afford the status quo. The American Dream and Grant County customs and culture are at risk. The return of honesty, ethics and common sense is critical and the minimizing of regulations, taxation and litigation."

Jim Hamsher knows the county, understands the customs and culture and he will be proactive to protect this. Jim will be a voice for all of Grant County, not just the people who live within the city limits of John Day and Canyon City.

Jim Hamsher has my endorsement for county judge.

Elaine Smith
Prairie City

Larson's neighbors support him

To the Editor:

One of the best judges of a person's character are his or her neighbors. Drive up south Highway 395 toward the Berry Creek Ranch and count the number of signs displayed by Gordon Larson's neighbors up and down the canyon. People who know this man as a neighbor and fellow citizen realize the value Gordon could bring to the table as your Grant County commissioner.

We need a new voice and

a strong voice in our county court that isn't preoccupied with tired old issues that have no bearing on the important business of moving our county forward.

Please join me in voting for the man who can get it done. Vote for Gordon Larson for Grant County commissioner.

Carla Zinn
Canyon City

Not out of commissioner race

To the Editor:

I apologize for leaving the candidate forum as abruptly as I did, but I received a call that had to be responded to immediately. I am a paralegal and an airborne electronics expert and am being used with these skills. I am working with a person confidentially who cannot be unmasked at this time. It's important to know now that I quit the candidate forum but most definitely not the county commissioner race.

Richie Colbeth
John Day

Many positive stories about Hamsher

To the Editor:

I read a post from Jim Hamsher after the fire. He posted a kind of prayer that we could help each other survive that event by finding our usual loving community spirit. As he was the underdog of underdogs in his political race, I naturally wanted to help. The first day I met him, he told me he believed in these things: "Each citizen deserves to be heard, and treated with respect in the county court. I take my oath of office seriously. I am committed to implementing the will of the people I represent." And this: "This is a time to come together, not a time for divisiveness." "As Grant County judge, I see this as an opportunity to pull together."

Researching him, I discovered he has served the citizens in a variety of voluntary jobs, including being three-time mayor, for no money. No money ever. He took over a failing water system, which he had opposed at the time it was proposed, survived a disastrous wind storm and is bringing it back on line at no cost increase. There are a lot of these stories. He also is still providing disaster relief— hay — for families affected by the fire.

If any of this is something you care about, please vote Jim Hamsher for Grant County judge.

Katy Nelson
John Day

Re-elect Scott Myers

To the Editor:

There are a lot of good reasons to re-elect Scott Myers as county judge. If you've attended county court meetings, you know the patient

and ethical way in which Scott conducts the matters of the court, while also carefully following open meeting regulations.

He does his homework and is very knowledgeable about local needs, our economy, legislation and governmental matters. He travels all over the county and region to advocate for Grant County.

Although both men are, in my opinion, good men and have the best intentions for Grant County, I believe Jim Hamsher could use another round as commissioner before potentially being elevated to judge.

We need a balance of opinions instead of a one-way street. Scott Myers has provided that balance with clear thinking. Oftentimes he has made the right decision, even though he would never win a popularity contest doing so. He is a strong advocate for all the people of Grant County.

This election should be about the most qualified people to lead our county forward and not some name recognition contest. Keep Grant County moving forward with sound financial and ethical decisions. Re-elect Scott Myers. You'll be glad you did.

Elaine Mezzo
John Day

Sex abuse victim 'hero' for speaking out

To the Editor:

I've never met Wade Cates, but after reading "Regaining a voice silenced by abuse" in the April 25 edition, I came to consider him a hero. To have spoken out as he did must have taken the courage of a combat soldier. His life experiences, intelligence, journey through therapy and with the assistance of professionals, he has accumulated a wisdom of sexual abuse that is remarkable. In addition to relating his history, he has moved on to formulate solutions. It is significant that in his remarks to the Eagle, he mentioned "silence," or the opposite, "speaking out," 27 times. His rationale is valid, and our community should listen.

What has caused this destructive behavior of sexual abuse to become a taboo that both victims and responsible citizens can't report or discuss? Thank you, Eagle, for publishing Wade's story. This could be encouragement for victims to come forward with their voice and for Grant County people to speak out in education of children and in profound support for others like Wade.

Vic Pike
John Day

Man killed after crashing into river

EO Media Group

A Stanfield man was killed Thursday when he drove off a cliff into the North Fork John Day River.

According to Oregon State Police, Randy Jones, 53, was traveling westbound Thursday morning on gravelled Texas Bar Road when his vehicle left the road for an unknown reason. It tumbled down into a roughly 400-foot ravine before coming to rest on its top in the North Fork John Day River. Jones was killed in the crash. According to OSP, he was wearing a seatbelt and was not ejected. Speed is being considered as a possible factor in the crash.

La Grande truck driver found safe

Blue Mountain Eagle

A missing La Grande truck driver was found safe Saturday.

After walking more than 14 miles at elevations of 5,000-6,500 feet, Jacob Aaron Cartwright flagged down a passing motorist at the 270 interchange of Interstate 84 about 9 miles south of La Grande, according to Oregon State Police. The motorist gave him a ride to his home in La Grande before Cartwright was taken to Grande Ronde Hospital for medical evaluation.

Cartwright told OSP he encountered snow and mud on Forest Road 5125 April 24, and his commercial vehicle slid toward a steep embankment. When the vehicle was unsafe to move, he continued traveling on foot down Forest Road 5125 and then northeast until he reached the interstate four days later.

The initial investigation revealed Cartwright may have encountered a problem with his navigational GPS system and was routed off of State Route 244 onto Forest Road 51 where he traveled approximately 12.5 miles before turning onto Forest Road 5125.

Cops and Courts will return next week.

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VOTE FOR

Leonard "Archie" Osburn

Common sense and integrity.

Paid for by Leonard "Archie" Osburn for Grant County Commissioner

Elect

Gordon Larson

for Grant County Commissioner

Gordon Larson is dedicated to the future of Grant County. With 30 years of public service, it's time to put his knowledge and experience to work for Grant County.

Vote for Grant County
Vote for Gordon Larson

To view Gordon's endorsements and vision for Grant County, please visit:
GordonLarsonforGrantCountyCommissioner.com

*** Proven Conservative Leadership * Public Service Experience ***
*** A Strong Advocate for Grant County ***

Paid for by "Gordon Larson for Grant County Commissioner" Committee.

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