

# Clarno gets it right again

Oregon Secretary of State Bev Clarno rejected two initiative petitions in December because they included more than one topic. It's the second time recently she's told would-be petition sponsors they must stick to the state's single-subject rule, which says petitions must be limited to only one change.

Clarno won the first case, which involved three proposed initiatives, in Marion County Circuit Court in late November, though the ruling is being challenged in the Court of Appeals.

Clarno recently tossed out Initiative Petitions 48 and 49 for the same reason she denied the earlier pair.

The two measures are roughly identical. Each would require that all electricity sold in Oregon be from renewable sources and carbon-free resources. That is, presumably, what really matters to the folks at Renew Oregon, who are pushing the bills at least in part to make their goals law no matter what the 2020 Legislature does.

Unfortunately, the mea-

sures don't stop there. They include all sorts of rules on working conditions, the sorts of things that are the result of labor negotiations, not a statewide vote. The rules cover everything from prevailing wage requirements to mandatory participation in apprenticeship programs and proof the utilities have a history of obeying existing state and federal wage and hour laws. And, during the switch to 100% renewables, utilities would be charged with working to see that everyone benefits from the switch.

They are, in other words, multifaceted proposals that deal with multiple subjects.

And that, the state constitution says in several places, is not the way the system works. The state constitution clearly says that "a proposed law or Amendment shall embrace one subject only and matters properly contained therein" [Article IV, Section 1 (2)(d)].

That's not particularly ambiguous language, in Clarno's view. The only judge to rule on the issue so far has seen it her way. With luck, a new round of judges will agree.



## BUILDING BLOCKS

# Big guns versus small guns

Big guns have a specific purpose and usefulness as do small guns. Similarly, big chain corporate businesses have their specific purpose and usefulness as do small businesses.

Small businesses have a big impact on the U.S. economy through job creation and innovation. According to the Small Business Administration, small business is defined as a privately owned corporation, partnership or sole proprietorship widely measured by having fewer than 500 employees.

As of Nov. 4, 2019, the SBA reported there are nearly 30 million small businesses in the U.S. employing 47.8% of U.S. workers. Oregon small businesses employed 852,983, or 55% of the private workforce, creating 37,592 net jobs. Businesses with fewer than 20 employees experienced the largest gain, adding 22,203 net jobs in 2016, according to the Census Bureau. Southern and Eastern Oregon, and more specifically Grant County, are alive because geographically our small businesses employ less than 500 employees. We are the "Little Guns."

Can you imagine not having "Little Guns" available? Imagine, for a moment, living without your downtown and local businesses. Think about the impact of just one business closing, or one business opening, in Grant County. For



Dorothy Nestlerode

every dollar spent at a small business in the U.S., approximately \$0.67 stays in the local community. In addition to dollars spent, local businesses donate hundreds or thousands of products and money to local community fundraisers and events. Where would all the schools, nonprofit organizations and family crisis fundraisers be if there were no baskets, or guns, or gravel, or money — goods and services — donated by Grant County businesses? This is where the "Little Guns" become the "Big Guns" and the "Big Guns" become the "Little Guns" or non-existent guns.

The facts are "Big Guns" donate to communities, but the communities must meet specific requirements or guidelines. "At Amazon, we are committed to ensuring all children and young adults, especially those from underrepresented and underserved communities who reside in areas where we have a physical presence, have the resources and skills they need to build their best and brightest futures." Costco and Walmart/Sam's Club offer grants through annual grant applications. Walmart 2019 grants range from a minimum of \$250 to a maximum of

\$5,000. "Costco focuses on supporting charitable programs and community activities in the markets where we do business. All 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations focusing on children, education, and/or health and human services are eligible to apply for consideration, regardless of their distance from our locations, but are very competitive."

The building blocks of Grant County are the "Little Guns" made up of small businesses employing you and your spouse, teens, college students, grandchildren and your neighbors in Grant County. They are the entrepreneurs who have grit, compassion, perseverance and heart for Grant County. Yes, heroes of our time, serving and working hard for families, nonprofit organizations and the community as they provide jobs, goods and services, and donations to Grant County schools, health care, 4-H, fire departments and other local community fundraisers.

When you support the "Little Guns" — the small businesses in Grant County — you are making a big impact on our communities' economic sustainability, growth and existence. Economic development starts with you as the consumer.

Dorothy Nestlerode is a Grant County resident, mother and local author.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### 'Our government is fundamentally altered'

To the Editor:

The Hillsdale College Imprimis tells us that today the form of our government is fundamentally altered — the Constitution has been largely replaced with an alternative form.

This alteration is based on the fact that the great majority of our laws at the federal level are not made by Congress, as is commonly claimed and dictated by law, but by the people we elect delegating the work to someone else. Actually, they delegate it to many people, collected in about 150 independent executive agencies.

These agencies make a very great number of laws, and there is no ready way for the people to correct those laws. It is made to appear that the authority of those

who hold these unelected offices is made legitimate by the fact that they are under the control of people who are elected.

The "unelected" give themselves authority by passing amendments to the rules, laws and directives, such as adding more to the Code of Federal Regulations (CFRs) to give more authority or to "clarify," adding "supplements" to manuals or handbooks, leaving interpretation to all levels of "unelected" all the way down to a local level.

As of 2013 there were 175,496 pages, with 50 titles in the CFRs, which contains current, in-force rules and regulations promulgated by the departments and agencies of the federal government.

Those who founded our nation and the thinkers upon whom they drew believed that such an arrangement would destroy the accountability of the government to the people, and therefore destroy the ground of government by consent. In recent years these

developments have taken a new and dangerous turn because they are set along partisan lines and possibly by foreign interests and United Nations dictates. We know that because the people in law enforcement and intelligence at the federal level have said so.

We need to understand this when it becomes time to vote.

Judy Kerr  
Canyon City

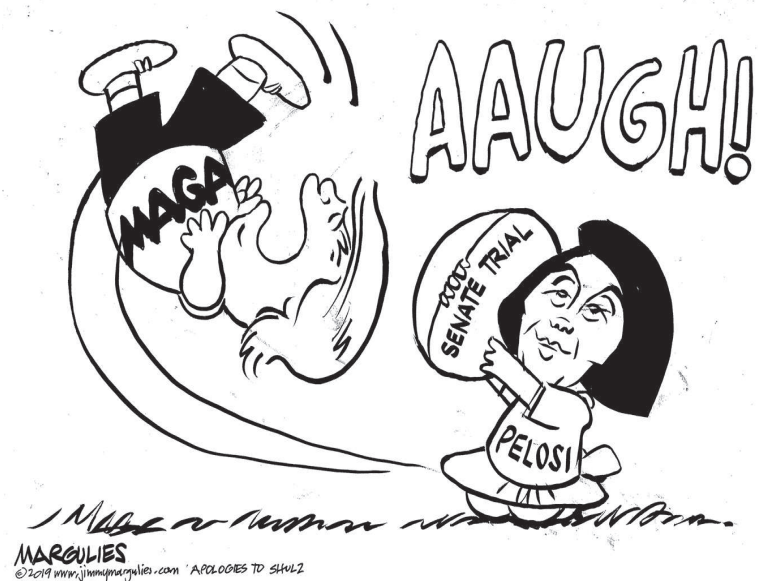
### A landmark gone

To the Editor:

Saw the smouldering remains of the tennis shoe tree Jan. 2 on Highway 26, about milepost 88. It has been the source of smiles and pictures by visitors for years, but someone decided to torch it. It took some effort to drive up there and do that. Too bad the person, or persons, who did this couldn't direct their efforts to something good. Pretty sad.

Mary Brown  
Prairie City

**LETTERS POLICY:** Letters to the Editor is a forum for Blue Mountain Eagle readers to express themselves on local, state, national or world issues. Brevity is good, but longer letters will be asked to be contained to 350 words. No personal attacks; challenge the opinion, not the person. No thank-you letters. Submissions to this page become property of the Eagle. The Eagle reserves the right to edit letters for length and for content. Letters must be original and signed by the writer. Anonymous letters will not be printed. Writers should include a telephone number so they can be reached for questions. We must limit all contributors to one letter per person per month. Deadline is 5 p.m. Friday. Send letters to editor@bmeagle.com, or Blue Mountain Eagle, 195 N. Canyon Blvd., John Day, OR 97845; or fax to 541-575-1244.



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- **Oregon Legislature** — State Capitol, Salem, 97310. Phone: (503) 986-1180. Website: leg.state.or.us (includes Oregon Constitution and Oregon Revised Statutes).
- **Oregon Legislative Information** — (For updates on bills, services, capitol or messages for legislators) — 800-332-2313.
- **Sen. Cliff Bentz, R-Ontario** — 900 Court St. NE, S-301, Salem 97301. Phone: 503-986-1730. Website: oregonlegislature.gov/Bentz. Email: Sen.CliffBentz@oregonlegislature.gov.
- **Rep. Lynn Findley, R-Vale** — 900 Court St. NE, H-475, Salem 97301. Phone: 503-986-1460. Website: oregonlegislature.gov/findley. Email: Rep.LynnFindley@oregonlegislature.gov.

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