

Senate contender Perkins visits John Day

By BENNETT HALL
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — U.S. Senate candidate Jo Rae Perkins made a 90-minute campaign stop in John Day on Sunday, March 27, visiting with a half-dozen voters over lunch at the Squeeze-In Restaurant and Deck.

Perkins, an Albany resident who owns a jewelry design business, is one of seven Republicans seeking the GOP nomination to face off against incumbent Democrat Ron Wyden in November.

Like others in the crowded primary field, Perkins has been criss-crossing the state looking to line up votes in the run-up to the May 17 election.

“We agree on virtually everything,” Perkins said. “And we should, because we’re all Republicans and most of us are very conservative.”

Asked how she would differentiate herself from her GOP rivals, Perkins said, “I’m a strict constitutionalist.”

As she has done in past campaigns, Perkins said that if she’s elected she and her staff would analyze every bill that comes to a vote to make sure it’s within the parameters set by the Constitution.

“If we found something there that’s not constitutional... I would have to vote no, because if I vote yes I’ve just violated my oath of office.”

As the conversation moved around the table, Perkins responded to questions and comments by airing her views on a variety of issues, including:

- Social service programs: They should be cut back or eliminated. “We have raised a whole generation of people who just assume people are going to give them stuff. ... The work ethic is gone.”

- Big government: It needs to be rolled back. “The No. 1 role of government is to keep people safe. ... The government keeps taking over what used to be private enterprises.”

- Federal forest management: It’s too restrictive. More logging should be allowed to create jobs and prevent catastrophic wildfires. “They’re concerned about global warming and climate change, but they’re putting all these pollutants up in the air with forest fires. ... Private timber companies are managing their land, keeping the underbrush down, (while) federal forest land is literally burned to a crisp.”

- Federal land ownership: In general, it’s unconstitutional. “The only land the federal government has title to (in Oregon) is Crater Lake. ... The federal government does not own this forest (national forest land) out here.”

- Government overspending: Congress is too quick to spend money it doesn’t have. As an example, she cited the \$14 billion in aid to Ukraine included in a recent federal spending bill. “Are you kidding me? What for? Where’s this money coming from?”

- Federal vs. local management of natural resources on public land: “We’ve got to



Bennett Hall/Blue Mountain Eagle

Jo Rae Perkins, who is running for GOP nomination for U.S. Senate, speaks during a campaign stop at the Squeeze-In Restaurant and Deck in John Day on Sunday, March 27.

get the federal government out of the way. ... You’re over here in Grant County. You know what your resources are.”

- Urban-rural divide in Oregon politics: The state should consider changing how legislative seats are apportioned to give less-populated rural counties more power and more-populated urban counties less. “If we did one senator per county and two representatives per county ... it would give more of a balance of power.”

- The Jan. 6, 2021, Capitol riot in Washington, D.C.: “There was not a mob and there was no storming of the Capitol. ... Was there (some) storming? Yes. Was there a mob? No.”

As has been widely reported, Perkins took part in the pro-Donald Trump demonstrations outside the White House in Washington that day and went with the crowd that overran police barricades to the Capitol, where Congress was certifying Joe Biden’s election victory. On her Facebook page, Perkins posted a video that said she was standing just outside the Capitol but did not enter the building itself. She also suggested that the riot was instigated by antifa infiltrators.

Perkins has run for federal office in every election since 2014, when she entered the Republican primary for one of Oregon’s Senate seats. In 2016 and 2018, she ran for the GOP nomination for the House of Representatives in Oregon’s 4th Congressional District.

She filed to do so again in 2020, then switched tracks and entered the Republican primary for Senate, which she won. She lost to Democratic incumbent Jeff Merkley in the general election, garnering 39% of the vote to Merkley’s 57% while carrying 24 of 36 counties.

In an election night video, she expressed her support for “Q and the team,” but has since distanced herself somewhat from the QAnon conspiracy theory, telling Oregon Public Broadcasting she considers QAnon forums a “source of information.”

Perkins holds a bachelor’s degree in political science from Oregon State University and a certificate in financial planning from the University of Portland.

Grant County DA seeks third term

Jim Carpenter is running unopposed in reelection bid

By JUSTIN DAVIS
Blue Mountain Eagle



Carpenter

Carpenter also states that while he works with local police, he doesn’t direct their activities or have the authority to dictate how they police.

“I would prefer to have additional police resources. All that needs doing simply can’t be done,” Carpenter said. “This is another area where decisions will have to be made based on resources available; many situations that would generally merit police responses will go without,” Carpenter added.

These difficulties haven’t made the job all bad, however. Carpenter said he is pleased that his office has been able to work through the pandemic. He’s also encouraged by the establishment of treatment and family courts, although he adds they have been somewhat slow to get off the ground because of COVID.

“Recently our circuit implemented a treatment court along with a family court. I would like to see these opportunities utilized to the extent they were designed (for),” Carpenter said.

Carpenter also stressed that he is “on board” with providing opportunities for change, but the consequences of illegal behavior have to be of a higher magnitude than the pain of changing illegal behavior.

“When we allow illegal behavior without consequence, we are simply enabling further illegal behavior,” said Carpenter.

Carpenter says that he’ll continue to work within the justice system to hold offenders accountable while still seeking resources to help those offenders change their habits and become productive members of society.

“As part of that, the state needs to step up and provide resources for rural communities,” he added.

Singling out a particular event or accomplishment that defines his last term is challenging, according to Carpenter, given the many changes that have taken place in that time.

“Over the past four years, there have been significant changes to the law that benefit defendants to the detriment of the victims and the public. Additionally, the local law enforcement landscape has changed with the election of a new sheriff and discontinuation of the John Day Police Department,” Carpenter stated.

Carpenter’s office has been dealing with an increased workload following the departure of a full-time deputy DA and the COVID-19 pandemic bogging down the court process and delaying trials for around a year. Despite these circumstances, Carpenter says his office has been proceeding mostly on schedule regarding cases and prosecutions.

“I’m grateful that my office has pulled together and been able to weather these changes wile proceeding on a more or less even keel,” Carpenter said.

WHAT’S HAPPENING

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30

Lenten luncheon

• 11:30 a.m., St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic Church, 111 SW Second Ave., John Day

Part of a series of lunchtime services during Lent sponsored by the John Day Ministerial Association. Lunch includes choice of soup, bread and beverage, followed by a worship service at 12:15 p.m. For more information, call 541-575-5840.

FRIDAY, APRIL 1

Fundraising dinner and bingo

• 5 p.m., Mt. Vernon Community Hall, 640 Ingle St., Mt. Vernon

The evening begins at 5 p.m. with a taco dinner to help cover medical expenses for Jaelyn Clarry, who is awaiting a kidney transplant. Tacos are \$6 apiece or two for \$10, with all the fixings. A bingo fundraiser for the Grant Union High School Class of 2026 starts at 6. The cost to play is \$5 per card.

’62 Days planning meeting



• 7 p.m., Sel’s Brewery, 113 Washington St., Canyon City

Regular weekly meeting of the Whiskey Gulch Gang to plan this year’s ‘62 Days festivities. Anyone who wants to help is welcome. For more information, call Colby Farrel at 541-620-0874.

SATURDAY, APRIL 2

Lake Creek Youth Camp Gala

• 5 p.m., Trowbridge Pavilion, Grant County Fairgrounds, 411 NW Bridge St., John Day

This third annual benefit for the nonprofit youth and family camp in Logan Valley features a tri-tip dinner, games, live music, drinks by Spitfire Cocktails and live, silent and dessert auctions. Tickets are \$25 at the door or \$20 in advance, available at several loca-

tions in John Day and Canyon City. For more information, call Aimee Rude at 541-206-2421.

MONDAY, APRIL 4

John Day Senior Center reopening

• Noon, John Day Senior Center, 142 NE Dayton St.

The John Day Senior Center is reopening for group dining. Lunch will be served at noon on Mondays and Thursdays. The cost is \$6 for those under 60, with a suggested donation of \$5 for those 60 and up. For more information, call 541-575-1825.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6

Prairie City Senior Center reopening

• Noon, Prairie City Senior Center, 204 N. McHaley St.

The Prairie City Senior Center is reopening for group

dining. Lunch will be served at noon on Wednesdays. The cost is \$6 for those under 60, with a suggested donation of \$5 for those 60 and up. For more information, call 541-820-4100.

FRIDAY, APRIL 8

’62 Days planning meeting

• 7 p.m., Sel’s Brewery, 113 Washington St., Canyon City

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Do you have a community

event in Grant County you’d like to publicize? Email information to editor@bmeagle.com.

The deadline is noon Friday for publication the following Wednesday.

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Sat & Sun 1:20, 4:20, 7:20
Mon-Thurs 7:20

THE LOST CITY (PG-13)
Friday 4:10, 7:10
Sat & Sun 1:10, 4:10, 7:10
Mon-Thurs 7:10

SPIDERMAN NO WAY HOME (PG-13)
Friday 4:00, 7:00
Sat & Sun 1:00, 4:00, 7:00
Mon-Thurs 7:00

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