

Letters to the Editor

Editor's note: Letters to the Editor must be signed. The Gazette-Times will not publish unsigned letters. Please include your address and phone number on all letters for use by the G-T office. The G-T reserves the right to edit.

What's the real cause of resignation?

To The Editor:
The April Morrow County Health District Board meeting did not get to the cause of Dr. Atkins' resignation.

I would like to know what Dr. Atkins' wife alluded to when she said to Mr. Schmidt/board, "You know what you told him (Dr. Atkins) in your first meeting." I do not believe an answer was given to that question and also that question was not printed in the paper. Mrs. Atkins did note that people might be afraid to speak due to fear of litigation.

We can only guess at what was discussed, but it is affecting our future. If it was something Dr. Atkins did not like, then I'm deeply concerned because it must be something that changed since December. The two parties seem to be at polar opposites on some issues and I have to believe Dr. Atkins is for doing what is best for the patients and for the staff that care for those patients.

It is interesting that we would get more monies back in reimbursements if we are designated "underserved by physicians." This is not a new program. Are we going to be without physicians

just to get this designation initiated? It is a moot point to me that we can increase physicians once we are designated. To me, this is one of those issues where money is not the issue. We have a lot to lose in the meantime.

Since administration took over scheduling the medical staff earlier this month, the call schedule for this past weekend was changed on April 4, but Dr. Wenberg wasn't informed and was completely surprised by the change when he came back to town on April 10 to start call for the weekend.

How will medical staff be treated in the future? Will we even have doctors on staff? What quality of doctor will we have?

Why would other doctors want to come into a situation such as ours when they could be treated better and have less hassles elsewhere?

People ask me if I'm worried about my job. Right now, I'm most concerned about our patients. I hope this is also the biggest concern of our "powers-that-be."

(s) Patricia Maben
Heppner

Vote for Van Arsdale

To The Editor:
The voters of Morrow County are offered a wide array of candidates for the position for county judge. There has never been so many well qualified candidates running for one position. The leader of our county must be able to direct all departments as if it were a multi-million dollar business. He must also have current experience working within the confines of the state and federal government regulations. Unity of the I-84 corridor and the Willow Creek

valley need a leader that has "hands on" experience through out the entire county.

Guy Van Arsdale has a proven record of managing a successful business for many years. Recently he has improved the county transportation system as public works director. This is current "hands on" experience through out the entire county. He knows no special area.

Please exercise your voting responsibilities and join me in voting for Guy Van Arsdale for Morrow County Judge.

(s) Joe Miller
Heppner

No regard for the law?

To The Editor:
When I read the Gazette last week and saw that Earl Woods and David Allen are the candidates for district attorney of Morrow County, I decided to do a little background investigation of my own. It wasn't easy. I had to go to the incumbent district attorney Mr. Woods to get the information necessary to start my investigation and I had to access the records of the justice courts to get the rest. What I wanted to do was to check their driving records. I was finally able to do that through the Motor Vehicles Division, but as I said, it wasn't easy.

I first checked Mr. Woods' driving record and discovered that over the last 10 years that Mr. Woods has had three citations for speeding scattered over the 10 year period.

I next obtained the driving record for Mr. Allen and found it to be of much more interest. Over the period of the last 10 years Mr. Allen was arrested for

driving under the influence of intoxicants in 1988, and in the process submitted to a breath test which showed his blood alcohol to be greater than the legal limit. This resulted in a suspension of his driver's license. Thereafter in 1995 he failed to appear for a hearing in the Wasco County District Court and, as a result, he was suspended again, this time for a period of two years and two months. During this period, he was not supposed to drive in Oregon. But he did. In 1996 he was convicted for driving uninsured. Because of this and a few other minor citations Mr. Allen last November received a warning letter from the Department of Motor Vehicles.

I don't have a perfect driving record myself, but I'm not running for the top law enforcement legal position in the county. I wonder if we want a district attorney who apparently has no regard for the laws that he is supposed to enforce?

(s) Allen A. Swenson
Heppner

Perry Atkinson for Congress

Letter to the editor:
Morrow County residents may feel as though they are isolated from political happenings in Salem, but they now have an opportunity to choose a new congressman. I know both Perry Atkinson and Greg Walden. I have "watch-dogged" the voting records of Oregon legislators since 1983.

Greg Walden will come to your community bragging about how fiscally conservative he is. Don't you believe it. He rarely saw an appropriation bill he voted against when he was in Salem. Can we expect anything different if he is elected your next congressman. Don't let current Congressman Bob Smith's

endorsement of Walden fool you. Walden is a Portland insider. Smith simply did what was expected of him.

Walden even voted to tax Morrow County residents to pay the interest on bonds to finance the Portland trolley (light rail). And he voted for a 15-day waiting period for handgun purchases and a registry. He also wants these owners to be thumbprinted like common criminals. Welcome to Greg Walden's new world order.

Atkinson would be my choice for congress. He even carries a Constitution with him on the campaign trail. Walden doesn't even respect his constitutional oath of office.

(s) Betty Freauf
Turner

Wes Cooley the best man

To The Editor:
There are four Republican candidates for Congress in the May 19 primary election: John Newkirk, a frequent candidate but has yet to win, Perry Atkinson, a Christian radio station owner who ran unsuccessfully in 1994, Greg Walden, also a broadcaster and an off-again-on-again state legislator, and the wild card, former state senator and former congressman, Wes Cooley.

Neither Newkirk nor Atkinson has a voting record to compare, but we have the records of Walden and Cooley and can pretty well guess how either would represent us if elected.

We know Wes Cooley well. He was our state senator in 1993 and '94, then resigned to run for congress, where he served for two years. In both offices he rolled up his sleeves, spit on his hands and went to work at the job he believed we wanted done. Few will fault his record or his accomplishments in either office. He served in the Army during the Korean war, but he has been unable to prove that he actually went to Korea. Some newspapers decided that he had lied about it and hounded him relentlessly until he decided to not seek re-election. He was "convicted" of lying in the voters pamphlet on the dubious basis of being unable to prove his statement.

Walden claims to be a

"conservative", but his voting record does not show this. He has consistently voted in favor of bigger government, higher taxes, and more restrictions on the rights of citizens. He has, however, been hand picked by retiring (again) Bob Smith. The newspapers recently ran an article about Bob Smith accompanying Walden to Washington, D.C., to raise funds for Walden's campaign. Rumor has it that a long string of lobbyists lined up to contribute as Smith called their names.

I don't like the idea of Washington lobbyists financing "my" congressman. It's legal, I guess, but it's not right. Those people wouldn't pay up unless they expected to own a piece of our representative.

Bob Smith wants to name his heir, but is that what we want? Bob has been a popular politician, but he has supported many liberal causes and has not really accomplished very much for the years he has been in congress. One conservative organization compared legislators based on their votes on key issues and rated Democrat Peter DeFazio more conservative (32 percent) than Bob Smith (29 percent). (Cooley scored 85 percent.)

My choice is easy. I think Wes Cooley is the best man to represent us.

(s) Vikki Church
Richland, Oregon

Births

Rachel Marie Montee-a daughter, Rachel Marie, was born to Holly Walchli and Justin Montee of Umatilla, Saturday, March 14, at Good Shepherd Community Hospital. She weighed 6 lbs, 7 oz.

Ricardo Noel Nunez-Acosta son Ricardo Noel was born to Bertha Alicia Nunez of Irrigon on March 20, 1998 at Good Shepherd Community Hospital in Hermiston. The baby weighed 6 lbs, 2 oz.

Ariana LaRae Corpus-a daughter Ariana LaRae was born to Sheila and Albert Corpus of Boardman on March 31, 1998 at Good Shepherd Community Hospital in Hermiston. The baby weighed 7 lbs, 15 oz.

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