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### Know who you're hiring

To the Editor:  
In preparing to write this, two quotes apropos come to mind:

"Government does not solve problems; it subsidizes them," and "If more government is the answer, then it was a really stupid question." Both by the late, great former president, Ronald Reagan.

Driving around Heppner/Morrow County, it is deeply unsettling and disappointing to see so many signs in support of Betsy Johnson for governor. Oregon desperately needs and most definitely deserves better than another governor who is corrupt, inept or dishonest.

It is my opinion that Betsy Johnson did not decide, after 20 years as a dedicated Democrat and all that entails, that she was so disillusioned and lost faith in her party she changed her affiliation to Independent. Occam's Razor is a scientific theory that, simplified, states all things being equal, the simplest explanation tends to be the correct one. That being considered, it makes more sense to me that the reason Betsy Johnson announced her sudden change to Independent while announcing her candidacy for governor is that, as a Democrat, she did not feel confident that she could/would beat Tina Koter in the primary to be the Democrat candidate.

Checking Johnson's voting record (which anyone can do at: just facts.votesmart.org.) the following report is but a drop in the horrible-for-Oregon bucket: It appears she's never met a tax she wasn't in favor of: -Transit and Gas Tax Increase

-Income Tax Increase  
-Inheritance Tax  
-Increase Business Tax to Enhance School Funding (yet she voted No on increasing minimum wage)

-Originally a hold out vote (the deciding vote) on the Corporate Activity Tax (CAT) but then flipped and voted in favor of the \$1.6 billion tax on Oregon sales, selling us all down the river. This "hidden sales tax" has driven more businesses out of Oregon than any other law in Oregon.

-In April 2021, she voted in favor of a bill that alleges Congress should implement reparations for African Americans. (In other words, we should guiltily pay people who've never been slaves from tax dollars paid by people who've never owned slaves.)

-In June 2021, she voted in favor of expanding insurance eligibility to illegal aliens not covered by Medicaid. She also voted in favor of in-state tuition and driver's licenses for undocumented immigrants. (Against the will of the people.)

-In the same month she voted in favor to authorize school districts to retain educators based on diversity and cultural merits. (As opposed to qualifications and credentials?)

-Most appallingly, she voted in favor of abortions at all stages of pregnancy up to the ba-

by's first breath. Though she swears (literally) she "will not give up on Oregon without a hell of a fight." Her voting record demonstrates that she has little regard for Oregon and our people, she offers no platform, plan, etc., for the path forward should she actually be elected as our next governor. So, other than stating that both parties are broken, what are her thoughts/plans on some of Oregon's biggest problems-

- \*800 increase in violent crime
- \*homelessness
- \*the consequences of the decriminalization of most hard drugs such as the escalation of drug trafficking, use and addiction
- \*failing schools
- \*the crushing cost of living/inflation, etc.

What is she for? What is she against? Who is Betsy Johnson? A little research turns up volumes of information.

\*On her website, Johnson claims she wants to "hold government accountable (The Governor Betsy to-do list . . . hold government accountable to deliver for the rest of us.) Now, I was raised on the principle that if one wants to lead, one should do so by example. Ms. Johnson seems to disagree with that principle, as personal accountability is not her strong suit. This is evidenced by her actions in 2013 when she tried to use legislative immunity to fight a lawsuit for a traffic accident she caused. "In 2013, according to records then-state Sen. Betsy Johnson (D-Scappoose) rear-ended a driver stopped at a redlight in her hometown. The driver of the other car was injured, causing lasting health problems. Ms. Johnson, who was not wearing a seatbelt, was also seriously injured. But the crash was also significant for the way that Johnson attempted to fight off the lawsuit filed by the women in the other car. Melissa Gallentine, 42, says Johnson tried to avoid taking any responsibility for her injuries and damage to her vehicle by claiming she was performing legislative duties driving to the Capitol. (Rachel Monahan, "Willamette Week," "Betsy Johnson crashed into another motorist. Then she tried to claim legislative immunity," July 6, 2022)

\*In 2007, Johnson admitted to ethics violations after she failed to report profits from a land sale. The Government Standards and Practices Commission investigated whether "Johnson failed to report her profits from a property sale that has been linked to legislation she sponsored. The parcel next to the Scappoose airport was sold three months after purchase for a \$119,000 increase in value. The legislation she sponsored gave special access to landowners with property next to airports. Johnson admitted to the ethics violations and was fined." (Julie Silverman, Longview Daily News, "Board Authorizes Probe of Betsy Johnson Land Deal," June 23, 2007)

\*In 2008, Johnson was under criminal investigation by the FBE after

admitting to violations of state ethics laws. "Sen. Betsy Johnson, D-Scappoose, who admitted to violating state ethics laws earlier this year, is now under a criminal investigation by the local FBI office. Three sources who have been interviewed by investigators say the FBI, since last summer, has been looking into business dealings by the Democratic Senator" (The Oregonian, "FBI looks into Sen. Betsy Johnson Dealings," January 8, 2008) Perhaps, in response to these revelations, Oregon Republican Party Chairman Justin Hwang, said it best . . ."In a time when the public's trust in government officials is alarmingly low, Oregon citizens need to know that those in public office have integrity and an unwavering commitment to personal ethics and accountability. Oregonians are tired of "Rules for thee, but not for me."

This member of the public loudly seconds his statement.

Johnson believes in protecting corporate oligarchs (after all as heir to a timber fortune, she is one) and insurance companies from accountability. From someone who's worked with her on a few state agency projects, "She talks the talk of representing the people of Oregon, but her bottom line is deregulating business and land at the expense of working people, neighborhoods and the environment while placating the country club set."

Besides her extremely progressive voting records, Tina Kotek is the person most responsible for making it legal to camp in any public space in Oregon, apparently including sidewalks, subjecting Oregonians to sidewalks covered in tents, garbage, drug paraphernalia, human waste and filth, drug addicts openly using their drugs, puking on themselves, passed out asleep on the sidewalks and doorways to businesses, etc., and subjecting unsuspecting passers-by to random, unprovoked and violent attacks. As for the plan or platform she has for Oregon, I have only heard her say she wants to be Oregon's first full lesbian governor. While that may be a feather in her cap, I fail to see how that helps Oregon or Oregonians.

That leaves us with Republican candidate Christine Drazan. I had the distinct pleasure of meeting her while she was her in Heppner at an event hosted by the Morrow County Republicans. Listening to her speak, I was amazed at her well thought out plan for Oregon. It is bold, thorough, and touches on so many problems created by Oregon's selfish, tone deaf leadership and plaguing the every day lives of Oregonians. Meeting and speaking with her, I found her to be down to earth, genuine and sincere in her hopes, plans and goals for Oregon and our people. She answered everyone's questions directly, honestly and passionately. I noticed a decidedly refreshing difference between her and others, past and present, campaigning for Oregon's highest office. Not only did she listen to and hear our questions and concerns, her attitude is not the "I, I, I, me, me, me" of the arrogant and ambitious. Rather, she is humble, approachable, and "we" minded; grounded in the knowledge of who she wants to work for . . . Oregonians, all of us. I would not, however, underes-

timate her. To read her kindness and friendliness as weak or unequal to the mountainous task ahead of her as Governor would be a mistake. But, hey, don't take my work for it. . .listen to some of her own words:

\*Regarding homelessness: "Homelessness should be rare and temporary."

\*Regarding the escalating crime rate: "Our brave men and women need all the resources to protect us. I will increase funding to put more cops on the street and end the lawlessness in Portland."

\*Regarding Cap and Trade: She led the walkout to stop Cap and Trade. As governor she'll "end Kate Brown's Cap and Trade executive order."

\*Regarding rampant drug use and abuse: "measure 110, which decriminalized hard drugs in Oregon, has been a complete policy failure. We can and should be investing in addition recovery programs, but I believe we can do that without enabling a culture of drug abuse to persist on our streets." Additionally on this measure, which was passed by voters at a mere 58 percent, she said she "will revisit it and bring it back to voters to include punishments/ fines up to \$1,000 and/or a rehab program." (Under the current policy the fine is \$100.00 or an assessment at a rehab facility, however, program funding has yet to materialize.)

\*Regarding educational failures: "Democrats under Kate Brown, Tina Kotek, Betsy Johnson, etc., shut our schools down without any idea how it would affect students. Furthermore, our state was one of the last to re-open. They failed our kids. We can't trust them to lead our state."

\*Regarding Betsy Johnson's car accident: "This is clear abuse of legislative immunity. No one should be above accountability or above the law, especially those in power. Oregonians are tired of self-serving politicians. We deserve leaders who follow the law and tell the truth."

\*Regarding inflation: "We have an extra layer of inflation in Oregon thanks to the policies passed by Kate Brown, Tina Kotek and Betsy Johnson. Unfortunately all signs seem to point to things getting worse before they get better."

Make no mistake, if I were in the Governor's office today, every possible option for addressing inflation and the cost of living would be on the table. I won't sit idly by while Oregonians continue to suffer the consequences of poor policy decisions. Pay raises for the political-powerful (see: "Oregon State workers to get earlier raises, bonuses," on oregonlive.com) yet nothing for everyday Oregonians. No help for our seniors on fixed incomes. No help for working families struggling to keep up with \$5-plus per gallon gas prices and grocery bills that have sky-rocketed: with record inflation, all options should be on the table. That includes:

\*Repealing the low-carbon fuel standard.

\*Gas tax relief.

\*Suspending the gross receipts tax that is adding an extra layer of inflation.

\*Moratorium on new regulations/taxes that have the potential to further drive up process.

As your next governor, I will take decisive action to address our state's out-of-control cost of living to help Oregon families." -Christine Drazan

Christine Drazan is the responsible choice to fix what folks like Betsy Johnson and Tina Kotek have done to Oregon, which used to be such a beautiful part of our great nation. Don't take my word for it, do your own research. Voting is such a big responsibility and patriotic duty. It's important to know who you're hiring for the job. I have provided several sources to help you begin..

"True ignorance is not the absence of knowledge, but the refusal to acquire it."-Karl Popper

### False profits come in sheep's clothing

To the Editor:

"Beware of false prophets which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves." (Matthew 7:15) Wolves are something we understand in Eastern Oregon. A ravening wolf is ferociously hungry, fierce and brutal. Wolves operate in packs. They usually attack the most vulnerable of their prey, however they will go after the most powerful to teach their young how to kill. Wolves prosper most when they have human benefactors that remove the boundaries that constrain them.

Wolves are most dangerous when they are clothed in positive vestiges. Jesus warned you would know them by their fruit. Jesus is warning about wolves that appeared to be your benefactor, your friend, your representative, your minister, your governor, but inwardly they are a fierce threat to your life and the lives of your loved ones.

In America today we have removed the constraints that kept the wolves at bay. In the 1960's the Supreme Court removed the Bible, prayer and the Ten Commandments from our schools and our government. Today the final constraints of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights have been severely undermined. The wolves have formed a dangerous and ravenous pack that not only attacks the most vulnerable but now brazenly attacks the most powerful. These wolves can be known by their fruit and can be identified by what they control.

These wolves, by pretending to be Americans, have taken control of the government. The wolf pack can be identified as progressive Socialist globalist Democrats and RINO Republicans that control the FBI, CIA, DOJ, House Representatives, Senate, most Circuit and Federal Courts, our school system and higher education. The wolves ravenous behavior has been shielded from the American people by their control of the media, press, Facebook, Amazon, and entertainment industry. These same wolves own and control CNN, ABC, NBC, ABC, TIME, NEWSWEEK, (and much more) and virtually all major newspapers.

One day these wolves will take off their sheep's clothing, but only if and when they have taken over America and much of the world. First they must take down those that still love America, love God, love our heritage, way of life, our freedom and liberty. That is why Donald Trump must be destroyed. Trump

represents everything these ravenous wolves detest. First, the primary Trump supporters must be taken down by the FBI and the DOJ with the unquestioned support of the press and media. Their homes must be broken into and possessions confiscated and otherwise intimidated as is happening every day.

These wolves in sheep's clothing see the American people as their greatest threat. The wolves in the press and media have painted White and Uncle Tom Black, patriotic, Christian, unapologetic American men as enemies of the coming 'woke' State of Mexico, Canada and America. These 'woke' controlled American government institutions are arming up. "One hundred three executive agencies outside of the Department of defense spent \$2.7 billion on guns, ammunition and military style equipment between 2005 and 2019." (The Philadelphia Trumpet, p. 19, 10/22) In contrast the number of state and local law enforcement officers has declined by almost 15% during the same time period. (op.cit. Phil. Trumpet)

Jesus well said, beware of wolves dressed as sheep and watch their deeds not their words. The fruit of these wolves is represented by the Dow Jones Stock Market losing 7000 points since January this year with hardly a negative word regarding the current Administration.

These wolves are cowards individually, brave hearts only in their pack. I exhort Americans that love our country, love God, love our way of life, love our heritage (good with the bad), to keep the faith and never give in, never give up. The only true God of our Fathers is for us, not against us. We shall prevail by our faith, because it is our God ordained destiny.

(s)Stuart Dick, Irrigon

### Success is all around us

To the Editor:

The collective exhale we all heard Sunday morning as horse trailers, RVs and vendors headed out of town officially signaled the completion of the 112th Pendleton Roundup. A tip of the hat to countless volunteers and the entire Roundup board for another wonderful event. Roundup is truly an eastern Oregon classic.

While another successful Roundup is now in the rearview mirror, activity is increasing here at Blue Mountain Community College. This week we welcomed faculty back to campus on Monday with the first in-person preservice event in several years. Tuesday BMCC staff and faculty greeted students with our signature event: Welcome to the Pack.

Welcome to the Pack helps students navigate their way through all those first jitters; finding the building where their classes are to be held, clearing registrations, learning all the ways they are supported through advising, tutoring, financial aid, scholarships, club and athletic activities and more. My thanks to all who worked so diligently to make this event a grand success.

On the topic of success, BMCC is moving forward with several successes in our quest to continuously improve the way we serve students and our communities. We recently held a

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