

Will you know what to do if you fall overboard out of a boat?

From page 8
tips that will help ensure a fall overboard doesn't become tragic. To see a complete report

on the tests as well as video of the ladders in action that will help you select the right one for your boat, go to BoatUS.com/

Foundation.

1. Wear your life jacket. All of the BoatU.S. volunteers participating in the testing program

wore a life jacket – before they voluntarily went over the side. All agreed that a fully clothed adult with no buoyancy would have difficulties attempting to get back aboard using any type of ladder.

2. You don't need to spend lots of money for a functional boarding ladder. Testers found an affordable model fashioned from four-inch wide yellow webbing proved best. Simplicity also ruled the day as the highest-ranked ladders all had fewer than three steps. The ideal ladder length, measured from the water's surface to the bottom rung, averaged 20 inches.

3. Some ladders work better with certain types of boats. Hard sides or soft? Low or high freeboard? Depending on a boat's construction or deck layout, most ladders performed well with one particular kind of vessel, and did poorly with others. It's important to match the ladder to the boat.

4. Before you head out, your boarding ladder needs to be positioned so it can be reached from the water. Also, attaching the ladder to the wrong spot on a narrow, lightweight boat can increase the chance of capsiz-

ing, especially if there is wave action.

5. Practice is a must. Many ladders were difficult to use on the first try. Take the time on a warm, sunny day to fine tune any adjustments, get in the water and use the ladder. Some ladders threw testers off-balance when weight was placed on them, causing the device to swing underneath the boat. Only practice solved this problem.

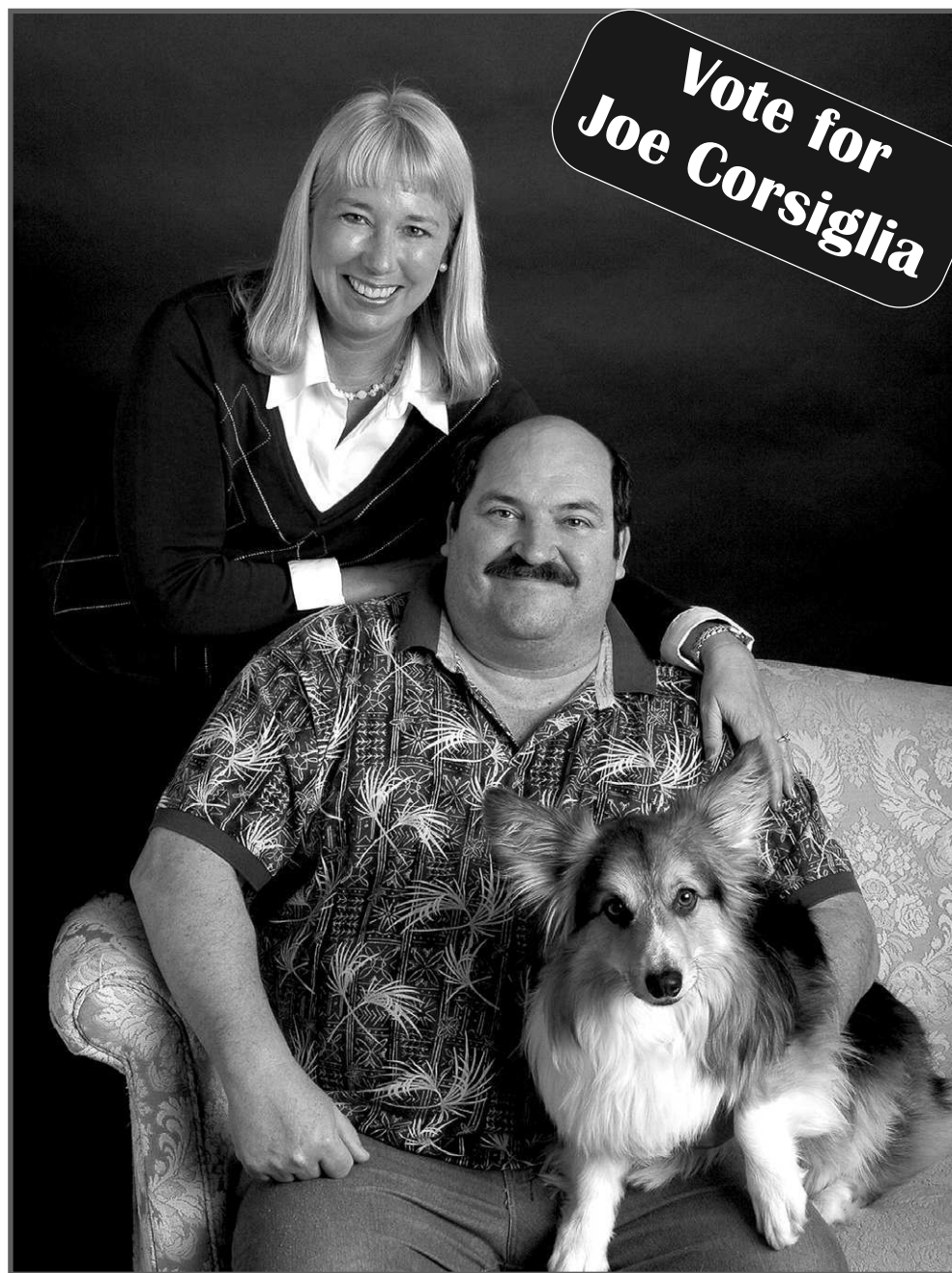
The BoatU.S. Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water is a national 501(c)(3) nonprofit education and research organization funded primarily by the voluntary contributions of the 650,000 members of BoatU.S. The Foundation operates more than a dozen programs, including the only accredited, free, online general boating safety course, a low-cost EPIRB rental program, the "Help Stop the Drops" national clean fueling campaign, and a free kid's Life Jacket Loaner Program. It has awarded hundreds of thousands of dollars in grants to nonprofit groups for boating safety and environmental projects.

County Commissioner Position 1

JOE CORSIGLIA



- Life-long Resident of Columbia County
- Proven Leadership
- Dedicated to the Public
- Involved in our Community
- Proud of our History
- Your Voice Needs to be Heard
- 20 + Years of Public Experience



*Vote for
Joe Corsiglia*

Letters

From page 3 Simmons' experience earns loyal support

To The Editor:

It seems the longer I campaign for Gerry Simmons for Columbia County Sheriff, the more fine people I meet who are willing to support him.

I suppose his long record of protecting the rights, property, and people of Columbia County have influenced more than a few. The fact that he has been under sheriff since 2000 is in his favor also. His humble, honesty, sincerity and dedication to law and order in Columbia County have undoubtedly influenced others as it has myself. Fifteen years patrolling the highway and four years working for the BATF&E doesn't really qualify his opponent for the duties of the office of sheriff. I believe Gerry is definitely the better qualified no nonsense candidate for the job.

Sincerely yours,

**Lawrence N. Derby
Clatskanie**

Dickerson needed to bring better service

To The Editor:

Regarding the election for Columbia County Sheriff:

I work for a law enforcement agency outside this area, and live in unincorporated Columbia County. I am stymied by the lack of service from our Sheriff's Office in Columbia County. Public service by definition is just that: service. The monetary rewards are not great, and public agencies, particularly police agencies, are staffed by people who want to make a difference and do not have money as their primary motivation. In unincorporated Columbia County if you need police assistance after 10:00 p.m., you are simply out

Please see page 25