Island Sports: Wolves Volleyball faces tough road ahead ... A6

WHIDBEY NEWS-TIMES

Vol. 127, No. 086

Saturday, October 27, 2018 • WWW.WHIDBEYNEWSTIMES.COM • 75¢

Island Living

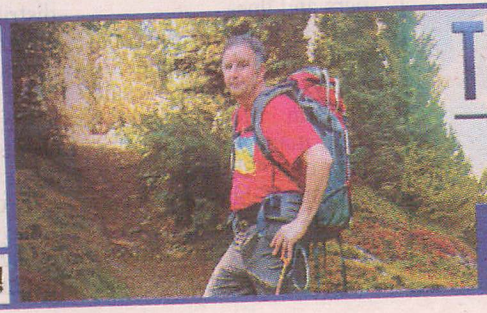
Haunted Fort offers thrills, chills this weekend ... A11

SEE SCAM, A2

Sherman Pioneer Farms Wednesday.

SEE PHONE ON BRIDGE, A3

Elect TOM SEGUINE
JUDGE
Washington Court Of Appeals
Primary Winner by 5,000 Votes!



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FOR THE PATH AHEAD
30 YEARS COURT EXPERIENCE MATTERS!

Law Practice Experience

	Tom SeGuine	Opponent
Overall Experience	30 years	11 years
Appellate Experience	30 years	none found
Criminal Law Experience	30 years	10 years
Civil Law Experience	15 years	3 years
Prosecution Experience	20 years	none found
Criminal Defense Experience	11 years	10 years

SCAM

CONTINUED FROM A1

She spoke to at least three more men, the last of whom said he was with the Drug Enforcement Agency. He instructed her to buy thousands of dollars worth of gift cards from Home Depot to help pay her "grandson's" bail. They told her she was

your Sherriff. So we urge you to get out and vote and take a neighbor with you!

CAST YOUR VOTE!

PAID ADVERTISEMENT BY STEVE DERNBACH

Woman charged with hitting OH police officer with her car

By JESSIE STENSLAND
jstensland@whidbeynewsgroup.com

An Oak Harbor police officer suffered minor injuries when a driver struck him with a car while fleeing arrest Oct. 9, according to court documents.

The suspect, Oak Harbor resident

shut off her car while the warrant was being confirmed.

Instead, Wittus allegedly put the car into reverse and accelerated backward, crashing into his patrol car, the police report states. Wittus then drove forward at a high rate of speed.

ness" items such as small soaps, deodorant, nail clippers and floss.

"I just think personal wellness and hygiene are really important," said Christin McCausland, a case manager and organizer of the drive.

Drop-off bins are located at Sea Mar, Thrive Community Fitness, Oak Harbor Library and

accept larger items.

On Nov. 19, she will distribute small bags with a number of the donated items. Larger bottles or other things that don't fit in the bags will be set up so clients and others can get them individually.

It can be difficult for those experiencing homelessness to have access to hygiene products, she said.

Distribution will last one day, unless there are still a lot of items left over, she said. After a few days, anything remaining will be given to the Garage of Blessings.

• *The clinic is located at 31640 SR 20, ste. 1 in Oak Harbor and provides mental health and chemical dependency services.*

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Island Living
Haunted Fort offers thrills, chills this weekend ... A11

Larsen asks Navy to reduce planned Coupeville flights

LARSEN

By JESSIE STENSLAND
jstensland@whidbeynewsgroup.com

U.S. Rep. Rick Larsen wants the Navy to rethink a proposed fourfold increase in the number of EA-18G Growler aircraft practices at a small Central Whidbey airfield.

He is also urging the Navy to work with Congress to increase Department of Defense Impact Aid for the Oak Harbor School District, fund a program to pay for sound insulation in private homes affected by aircraft noise and increase funding into noise mitigation on the aircraft.

Larsen, a Democrat from Arlington, recently sent Navy Secretary Richard V. Spencer a letter outlining his concerns about the Navy's "preferred alternative" for Growler operations at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island and he made suggestions for mitigating the impact on the community.

SEE LARSEN LETTER, A3

Most campaign money sources in-county

By LAURA GUIDO
lguido@whidbeynewsgroup.com

Outside interests have poured money into local elections this year, but the majority of campaign contributions still come from the candidates' constituency, data from the state Public Disclosure Commission reveals.

Contrary to claims made by her opponents' supporters, District 3 Island County commissioner candidate Janet St. Clair has raised more than 80 percent of her war chest from within Island County.

SEE PDC, A3

Scam preys on love of a grandma

By LAURA GUIDO
lguido@whidbeynewsgroup.com

Sondra Keith, a self-described organizer, "likes to run the show."

The 78-year old Oak Harbor resident was a supervisor for most of her professional life, which is why she can't believe she fell for a phone scam.

"Because I love my grandson," she explained.

Thursday morning, Keith awoke to a troubling phone call on her land line at the retirement facility where she lives. It was her grandson, or at least someone who sounded like him. He said he was in trouble with the law and needed her help.

"I just couldn't help but think it was my grandson," she said, visibly irritated as she recalled the conversation.

SEE SCAM, A2

Picking the perfect pumpkin

Photo by Laura Guido/Whidbey News-Times

NovaLee Anthony's father, Taylor Anthony, hands her a large pumpkin during a visit to the patch at Sherman Pioneer Farms Wednesday.

Phone at Deception Pass Bridge aims to fill service void

By LAURA GUIDO
lguido@whidbeynewsgroup.com

Yvette Fletcher already took a significant step to increase safety at Deception Pass Bridge. Now she just wants people to be able to find it.

A red emergency phone that dials 911, located in a red box on the west side of the bridge, came online at the end of September.

SEE PHONE ON BRIDGE, A3

Elect TOM SEGUINE
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LETTERS FROM PAGE 3

doesn't apply to him?

Clearly there is a lot of angst and disillusionment with regard to politics; we've seen what can happen when change is advocated at any cost. Our current world-level crisis in politics should give pause; an unqualified loose cannon was voted into power. We got some real change, all right.

Make the prudent choice. Join me in voting Gayford for prosecutor.

NATE ROGERS
San Juan Island

For county prosecutor, by far the best choice is Randy Gayford. He has been one of the best elected officials this county has had. He is a knowledgeable, competent, compassionate and highly ethical prosecutor who knows and is in touch with the community he serves.

Randy's many accomplishments include writing the first ordinance that protects killer whales. This became a model for subsequent state and federal regulations.

Randy wrote the ordinance prohibiting jet skis in San Juan County. Randy receives inquiries from other states or countries asking for support as they address similar issues with jet skis. When Lopez residents faced the closure and privatization of their garbage and recycling facility, Randy crafted a plan for a Lopez Solid Waste Disposal District. He then presented it to the County Council and wrote the enabling ordinance.

Randy's opponent, Nick Power, has made empty promises about being tough on drugs. The sheriff's office, not the prosecutor's office, investigates drug cases and then refers them to the prosecutor. Randy's office files charges in every drug case that they are able to make a provable case on. Power says he would even file unprovable charges. A prosecutor who charges people without sufficient evidence abuses the power of his office and wastes valuable county time and resources.

Power's criticism that Mr. Gayford failed to prosecute Detective Parker is a bogus accusation. Mr. Gayford had a neutral and independent Skagit County prosecutor determine whether charges should be filed. Randy made the right ethical decision in handling this difficult case.

Power claims to be a progressive and a Democrat. Those who believe that have been duped. Power's words don't match his actions. Power joined the unsuccessful efforts of local property rights and anti-environmental protection individuals and organizations. He challenged the Critical Areas Ordinance, opposed the charter reform.

Power also has represented numerous frivolous lawsuits filed against San Juan County including the recent one by the Orcas school teacher for $10 million that that has already been ruled against!

San Juan County Democrats have endorsed Randy Gayford, who has the experience that matters.

DAN CHRISTOPHERSON
Orcas Island

We are former victim advocates who worked closely with Randy Gayford in the Victim Services Program, and we write to support his re-election. Randy Gayford has proved his commitment to victims in the criminal justice system.

Randy applied for grant funding to create the Victim Services Program for San Juan County, which opened its doors in 1998. Since then, each of us has had the privilege of working with victims in a prosecutor's office that commands an understanding of the complex and sensitive needs of crime victims; that brings respect and empowerment to victims; and that properly uses the criminal justice system to hold offenders accountable and protect the rights of those harmed by crime.

Those of us who were present know that his opponent misrepresented Randy's leadership in uncovering the misconduct of a detective. From our perspective, Randy did the right thing in that difficult case, and time and again he has correctly balanced his ethical duties, responsibility to the victim and safety of the community.

Having worked with Randy and the victims who come through his office, we support Randy as the prosecutor who will continue to competently uphold the law, diligently protect victims and honor their rights.

SANDRA BURT, MSW, VICTIM ADVOCATE 1998-2001 AND 2010-2015
CHRISTINE MILLER, VICTIM ADVOCATE 2012-2017
LIZ PILLOW, VICTIM ADVOCATE 2002-2012
SUSAN KIMBALL, VICTIM ADVOCATE 2004-2010
KAREN KUNDE, VICTIM ADVOCATE 2000-2004

Support for Jewett

I am writing in support of Carolyn Jewett for district court judge. Carolyn shows a natural comfort when answering difficult questions, with open, frank answers. She is what I want in a judge: prepared, experienced, thoughtful and compassionate. Carolyn has plenty of courtroom experience, and is prepared for this position. She will work hard, apply the law in a way that is fair and serve our county well.

Carolyn grew up in a close family of six with one bathroom. Trust me, this a great way to learn flexibility, fairness, sensitivity and duty. Carolyn is informed, ready and old beyond her years. Furthermore, Carolyn doesn't have a disingenuous bone in her body. She helps people harmed by crimes, but also considers the circumstances of the offender. Please join me in voting for Carolyn Jewett for district court judge.

MARNY GAYLORD
Eastsound, WA

At the recent League of Women Voters candidates forum on Orcas, one of the most disturbing statements emerged in the race for district court judge, between Carolyn Jewett and Steve Brandli. Brandli admitted that if elected he would keep open his private law practice "for transactions."

Do we really want a judge who has a private law practice and all the potential conflicts that presents? Is Brandli just looking at the judgeship as a way to supplement his income? Is this not evidence of injudicious judgment?

My sense prior to the forum was that Carolyn Jewett is the superior candidate. I now have no doubt that Carolyn Jewett should be our next district court judge. I urge you to vote for her.

RICHARD GROUT
San Juan Island

In favor of affordable home initiative

Orcas multiple listings today show four homes under $300,000: two Eastsound condos and two livable houses. Could a salaried worker on Orcas buy one of these? Let's work the numbers.

First huge hurdle: banks require a down payment of at least 20 percent – e.g., $60,000.

Next, banks will usually approve a home loan only if the mortgage, insurance and tax payments will not exceed about one-third of the buyer's gross income. Zillow Mortgage Calculator says that monthly mortgage payments on a $240,000 loan at today's 5 percent x 30 year rate, plus average taxes and insurance, would be about $1,550 per month. Thus, gross income of the person or the couple buying would have to be at least $4,650 per month to qualify. A person or a couple working 40 hours a week year-round would need steady combined income of about $27 per hour to get this loan. Really!

Facing these formidable challenges, a salaried worker might try to RENT a place to live on Orcas. While looking up the multiple listings, I also looked up the vacation rentals by owner (VRBO) listings for Orcas Island. There were 447 VRBOs advertised in October, ranging on average from $200-$300 rent PER DAY! I have to ask: if you owned an unoccupied Orcas house, why in the world would you rent or lease it year-round, even at $1,600 per month, when you can VRBO it for three months of the year and make the same amount, with one quarter as much wear on the house? There go 447 possible rentals for Orcas year-round salaried workers.

Folks, let's get REAL. If we need a workforce of year-round salaried workers on Orcas – which we most certainly do – then we also need year-round homes which those workers can buy or rent. Join me in voting YES for the Affordable Homes initiative.

NORM ZIMLICH
East Harbor

Reluctant political open letter

I do not "Rant and Rave." I rarely talk politics, and I cannot remember ever writing a letter to a newspaper. I do not enjoy arguments and conflict. Despite this fact, after attending the League of Women Voters candidate forum on San Juan Island last week, I must break from this practice. While there, I listened in disbelief as Jeff Asher explained that the reason I (and 21 others) voted, as a member of the Sheriff's guild, to support Ron Krebs for sheriff was because I wanted to "go along to get along." I understand that he repeated this theory at the forum on Orcas Island this week.

Let me set the record straight. I voted to support Ron Krebs because I respect him and feel he is by far the best candidate for the job.

For Asher to imply that 23 out of 26 guild members did not support Asher because they feared retaliation from the sheriff is not only ridiculous, it is insulting to every deputy, dispatcher, sergeant, detective and corrections officer in the group. This is not a group of passive, submissive, insecure people. Truth is, it is difficult to bring this group to consensus on anything.

Asher stated he "has not met most of the officers" who voted and "has not worked with them." There are 17 members of the guild on San Juan Island alone that have worked with Jeff daily, most of them for years. And I would be shocked if there is a single member that Jeff "has not met" at one of our trainings, qualifying days, or in some other work situation.

Jeff did say two things that were true. He said that Krebs "has tremendous control over this (guild support)." Krebs does, through his performance as a

heriff, have tremendous control over the way we as a guild vote. If he is a good leader and manager, if he treats his people with respect and justice, if he is the best candidate for the job, we will support him. If anybody felt Jeff was the better man for the job, they would have voted to support him. They did not.

Trying to explain away the nearly unanimous guild support for Krebs, Jeff also said, "People are indebted to him (Krebs)," as though we only supported Krebs because he allows us to work here. Well, I am indebted to Krebs, but not the way Jeff says. "People" should be indebted to Krebs, and not just the guild members, but the public as well. Ron has done a great job raising the level of performance, professionalism, consistency, accountability and morale within the sheriff's office. All these things contribute to a safer community and better-served public in San Juan County.

I will be voting for Ron Krebs (of my own free will) in November, and I strongly encourage you to do the same.

ANDY URBACH
Corrections Officer of nearly 10 years
San Juan County Sheriff's Office

Vote for Brandli

I have known and worked with Steve Brandli since he moved here. I have worked with and against Steve many times over the years, and I have seen firsthand the respect with which he treats others, even opposing parties. Steve's depth of knowledge and experience

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Paul Allen leaves San Juan legacy

By Mandi Johnson
Reporter

Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen not only left a substantial impact on the world of home computers, but he also had a significant effect on the lives of islanders. Allen donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to a variety of island organizations.

"Paul Allen's foundation made a contribution early on when he first purchased property on Lopez," said Rhea Miller, community liaison for the Lopez Community Land Trust. "It was a real boon to our work, and I remember several other nonprofits received donations. It was a nice gesture on his part. Several of his employees live in homes developed by LCLT."

Allen co-founded the multinational technology giant Microsoft with childhood friend Bill Gates in 1975. According to Forbes, he left the company when he was diagnosed with Hodgkin's disease in 1983. He died on Oct. 15 from complications following the return of non-Hodgkin lymphoma – cancer he had battled before in 2009.

Other community organizations in the islands benefited from Allen's philanthropy, including Orcas Island's Children's House.

When Allen was purchasing property on Lopez in 1996, his agent, Wally Gudgell, mentioned the Children's House – of which Gudgell's sister Terri Mason was executive director at the time – needed some help with funding a new infant-toddler building. The Seattle Times reported. Allen donated $157,000, and the project was able to be completed.

Like LCLT, OPAL Community Land Trust also got a jump start from Allen's philanthropy. With a grant from the Paul G. Allen Foundation, OPAL was able to open its first affordable-housing community.

"For a period of time, the Paul Allen Family Foundation included affordable housing among

Contributed photo

WWI soldiers posed on the steps of the San Juan County Courthouse in 1917.

Armistice Day on San Juan

Honoring the end of World War I and the soldiers who never returned home

Heather Spaulding
Reporter

It was the year 1918, and World War I brought the islands more than its share of grief.

"San Juan County was one of the hardest hit in the nation," said Peter DeLorenzi, American Legion Post 163 manager, noting that nine of the 144 islanders who fought in World War I never returned home. That amounted to approximately 6.3 percent of their soldiers lost. In comparison, most counties throughout Washington did not lose more than 2 percent.

Nov. 11 marks the 100-year anniversary of the end of World War I. To commemorate the armistice agreement that was signed at 11 a.m., bells of peace will ring out across the nation at exactly that time.

"Anyone with a bell, ring it," DeLorenzi said, adding that the American Legion will be ringing their bells and the more that join in the better.

DeLorenzi will also be showing films about the war at the legion, at 5 p.m. from Nov. 8-12.

Although nine soldiers did not return to their island home, 133 men and two women did, and these veterans continued on to do incredible things for

legion, created the county park on the West Side of San Juan Island and the memorial park at the base of Spring Street. That park became the first memorials in the state. On Nov. 17, 1921, The Journal of the San Juans wrote:

"The Armistice Day exercises held in Friday Harbor, Friday afternoon were a huge success under the direction of Hackett-Larson Post American Legion. The main feature of the occasion was the unveiling of the memorial monument in the little park at the foot of Spring Street in honor of the county's soldier dead of the late war. A notable fact is that this monument is the first … in the State of Washington."

The veterans came home and continued work in public service. Many served on the county council, became prosecutors, leaders and visionaries. They are remembered by streets throughout the town of Friday Harbor named after them, including Larson, Harrison, Tucker and Frank.

"George Frank, everyone was afraid of him. But, if he wanted something done, it got done," DeLorenzi laughed.

World War I was dubbed the war to end all

San Juan tops King in records requests

By Hayley Day
Reporter

The rural San Juan Islands are leading the pack when it comes to record requests.

Data from a portion of 2017 show that San Juan County staff received roughly 22 times more public records requests and closed 15 times more public records requests per capita than urban King County.

Both municipalities documented requests from July 23, 2017 to Dec. 31, 2017, in identical reports mandated by the state. San Juan County is home to 16,715 people, according to the last census, while King County covers 2.18 million residents and includes the City of Seattle.

The onslaught of public records requests has forced San Juan County staff to hire more employees, find new ways to maintain and retain electronic files, and charge

See RECORDS, page 4

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Plan for SJI National Monument

Submitted by the BLM

There are upcoming meetings to learn and comment about the future of the San Juan Islands National Monument. The next meeting is from 6-8 p.m., Nov. 6 at the San Juan Island Grange. Marcia deChadenedes, monument manager, will also be available from 3-5 p.m., Nov. 12 and 1-3 p.m., Dec. 10 at the San Juan Island Library to answer questions about the plan.

The San Juan Islands National Monument was designated in 2013 in response to interest from islanders to ensure protection and restoration of the 76 locations that the Bureau of Land Management oversees in the San Juans. Because these places are so small and widespread, the BLM has never had an overarching management plan for this region, even though others have for 30 years. How important is a resource management plan? It is actually the law that the federal government cannot spend money to make changes to a landscape without basing it in the science of impacts, or without a long-view plan for the changes.

In the past four years, staff have established and worked with a monument advisory committee, which is comprised of 12 locals with a breadth of interests and experience relevant to the landscape. There have been workshops explaining the existing laws protecting these lands, like the Endangered Species Act, and asking locals which areas should be protected or developed for outdoor activities. Specialists in wildlife, vegetation, cultural resources and more have looked at the impacts these suggestions would have, and a preferred solution has been selected: "alternative B" in the draft plan. Currently, one alternative can be selected for all 76 areas in the monument. Staff know this might not be the right solution for every location. That's why they want to hear from locals. The comment period ends Jan. 3.

For more info, contact 360-298-4302 or mdechade@blm.gov. View the planning documents at https://go.usa.gov/xRphc.

Pet of the Week

My name is Dudley.

I may look like I'm a deep thinker but, 99 percent of the time I'm thinking of ways to outsmart the red dot. The rest of the time I'm napping. If these are things you enjoy doing, give me call. I'm here at the animal shelter. Thinking.

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Midterm elections

Alumnus Parish returns to teach

First Viking Voice of the year

Inside this edition

Remembering Paul Allen

by Mandi Johnson
Staff reporter

Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen not only left a substantial impact on the world of home computers, but also had a significant effect on the lives of islanders. Allen donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to a variety of island organizations.

"Paul Allen's foundation made a contribution early on when he first purchased property on Lopez," said Rhea Millet, community liaison for Lopez Community Land Trust. "It was a real boon to our work, and I remember several other nonprofits received donations. It was a nice gesture on his part. Several of his employees live in homes developed by LCLT."

Allen co-founded the multinational technology giant Microsoft with childhood friend Bill Gates in 1975. According to Forbes, he left the company when he was diagnosed with Hodgkin's disease in 1983. He died on Oct. 15 from complications following the return of non-Hodgkin lymphoma – cancer he had battled before in 2009.

Other community organizations in the islands benefited from Allen's philanthropy, including Orcas Island's Children's House.

When Allen was purchasing property on Lopez in 1996, his agent, Wally Gudgell, mentioned the Children's House – of which Gudgell's sister Terri Mason was executive director at the time – needed some help with funding a new infant-toddler building, The Seattle Times reported. Allen donated $157,000, and the project was able to be completed.

Like LCLT, OPAL Community Land Trust also got a jump start from Allen's philanthropy. With a grant from the Paul G. Allen Foundation, OPAL was able to open its first affordable-housing community.

"For a period of time, the Paul Allen Family Foundation included affordable housing among their priorities," said OPAL Executive Director Lisa Byers. "OPAL Community Land Trust was grateful to receive grants from the Foundation for the

SEE ALLEN, PAGE 4

County awards lodging tax grants

Staff report

The San Juan County Council approved almost $165,000 less in lodging tax awards for 2019 than the year before.

The revenue from the state lodging tax is awarded to county organizations to draw tourists to the islands. Consumers are charged the tax when they stay at local, short-term lodging, like hotels. A total of $950,875 was awarded to 26 local organizations at the Oct. 16 county council meeting in a 2-1 vote. Council chairman Bill Watson voted against the awards. Last year, 32 organizations were awarded a total of $1,116,299.

The funds promote tourist facilities, like historic museums, and promotions that attract tourists to events, like festivals. For 2019, facility funds totaled $828,675, and promotion funds were $122,200. About $420,000 less was awarded compared to what applicants requested.

The following was approved:

- Friday Harbor Film Festival, $8,500.
- Friends of the San Juans Maritime History Initiative, $8,500.
- Glen Wood Springs Hatchery, $9,000.
- Island Stage Left, $5,200.
- Keepers of Patos Light, $5,000.
- Kwiahl's Indian Island Interpretive Services, $2,000.
- County land bank and terrestrial manager group's visitor study, $76,000.
- Lime Kiln Point State Park, $5,000.
- Lopez Center for the Arts' chairs and racks, $20,000.
- Lopez Island Grange, $12,500.
- Museums on Lopez, Orcas and San Juan, $101,475.
- Orcas Center lighting, $20,000.
- Orcas Community Foundation, Eastsound landscape, $7,600.
- Orcas Island Lit Fest, $10,000.
- Orcas Open Arts Imagine Convergence, $10,000.
- Orcas Open Arts Orcas Anthology, $12,500.
- Orcas Open Arts Orcas Film Festival, $17,000.
- Orcas Open Arts, Orcas Jazz Festival, $5,000.
- County parks and fair facility, Eastsound Village Green, $26,700.
- County parks and fair operating budget, $285,000.
- County parks and fair playground, Eastsound Village Green, $55,000.
- San Juan Theater HVAC project, $20,000.
- County land purchase for Friends of Lopez Island Pool, $93,900.
- San Juan Island Agricultural Guild's Eat Island Grown campaign, $15,000.
- San Juan libraries Salish Speaker series, $6,000.
- Theaters on Lopez, Orcas and San Juan, $114,000.

Three applicants did not receive any funds: The San Juan County Master Gardener Foundation, Orca Protection and Rescue and the San Juan Islands Visitors Bureau website.

To watch the Oct. 16 county council meeting, visit www.sanjuanco.com/9013/Council-Agendas-and-Video.

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LETTERS FROM 5

Vote for Krebs, Gaylord, Jewett

I attended the recent candidates' forum on Orcas Island and was impressed with Sheriff Ron Krebs and municipal court judge candidate Carolyn Jewett. I'm grateful for their opponents' desire to serve, and believe both are capable of performing the basic duties of those elected offices. However, Krebs' and Jewett's experience and temperament clearly make them exceptional choices for those respective positions.

Unfortunately, I can't extend the same to Nick Power, who is running against our prosecuting attorney Randy Gaylord. Full disclosure: I am a longtime friend of the Gaylords and their extended family. I have closely followed Randy's career, and while I have occasionally challenged him on certain positions, I know him to be a highly ethical man, a well-respected manager and an enormously accomplished prosecutor. We are truly blessed to have him.

Power, on the other hand, appears to be the embodiment of the cynicism and insincerity in politics that so many of us have come to disdain.

A review of his background turned up case after case that Power lost or had dismissed outright for being "frivolous," having "improper motives" or failing to meet basic "factual and legal requirements." One case was so ridiculous that the judge fined Power and his client $10,000 for wasting the court's time: Power has yet to pay up.

So when Power announced at the debate that he wants to bring "transparency" to the prosecutor's office, I literally laughed out loud. He has yet to tell people all of the conflicts and cases we taxpayers would have to pay other attorneys to do the job of the elected prosecutor.

I encourage you do to your own research and see for yourself. You'll surely be stumped by this fact alone: Power has clients with claims against San Juan County, the very county he now wishes to serve and defend, that exceed $10,000,000. TEN MILLION DOLLARS. If that wasn't so twisted, I'd laugh out loud again. Re-elect Randy Gaylord!

Andy Wickstrand
Eastsound

Vote for Gaylord

For county prosecutor, by far the best choice is Randy Gaylord. He has been one of the best elected officials this county has had. He is a knowledgeable, competent, compassionate and highly ethical prosecutor who knows and is in touch with the community he serves.

Randy's many accomplishments include writing the first ordinance that protects killer whales. This became a model for subsequent state and federal regulations.

Randy wrote the ordinance prohibiting jet skis in San Juan County. Randy receives inquiries from other states or countries asking for support as they address similar issues with jet skis. When Lopez residents faced the closure and privatization of their garbage and recycling facility, Randy crafted a plan for a Lopez Solid Waste Disposal District. He then presented it to the County Council and wrote the enabling ordinance.

Randy's opponent, Nick Power has made empty promises about being tough on drugs. The sheriff's office, not the prosecutor's office, investigates drug cases and then refers them to the prosecutor. Randy's office files charges in every drug case that they are able to make a provable case on. Power says he would even file unprovable charges. A prosecutor who charges people without sufficient evidence abuses the power of his office and wastes valuable county time and resources.

Power's criticism that Mr. Gaylord failed to prosecute Detective Parker is a bogus accusation. Mr. Gaylord had a neutral and independent Skagit County prosecutor determine whether charges should be filed. Randy made the right ethical decision in handling this difficult case.

Power claims to be a progressive and a Democrat. Those who believe that have been duped. Power's words don't match his actions. Power joined the unsuccessful efforts of local property rights and anti-environmental protection individuals and organizations. He challenged the Critical Areas Ordinance, opposed the charter reform.

Power also has represented numerous frivolous lawsuits filed against San Juan County including the recent one by the Orcas school teacher for $10 million that that has already been ruled against! San Juan County Democrats have endorsed Randy Gaylord, who has the experience that matters.

Dan Christopherson
Orcas Island

We are former victim advocates who worked closely with Randy Gaylord in the Victim Services Program, and we write to support his re-election. Randy Gaylord has proved his commitment to victims in the criminal justice system.

Randy applied for grant funding to create the Victim Services Program for San Juan County, which opened its doors in 1998. Since then, each of us has had the privilege of working with victims in a prosecutor's office that commands an understanding of the complex and sensitive needs of crime victims, that brings respect and empowerment to victims, and that properly uses the criminal justice system to hold offenders accountable and protect the rights of those harmed by crime.

Those of us who were present know that his opponent misrepresented Randy's leadership in uncovering the misconduct of a detective. From our perspective, Randy did the right thing in that difficult case, and time and again he has correctly balanced his ethical duties, responsibility to the victim and safety of the community. Having worked with Randy and the victims who come through his office, we support Randy as the prosecutor who will continue to competently uphold the law, diligently protect victims and honor their rights.

Sandra Burt and Susan Kimball
Eastsound
Christine Miller and Liz Pillow
Friday Harbor

Experience: an oft-touted word by politicians — and for good reasons, really. In Randy Gaylord we have an elected prosecutor with 30-plus years of distinguished experience as a Washington attorney, 24 as prosecutor. His many accomplishments have helped shape our islands as a friendly, environmentally conscious community. He's served our county's citizens' interests, from giving a voice and strong representation to victims' rights, to giving us quiet summers void of jet skis and everywhere in between. Victories in court, too many to list, run the spectrum and provide us the lifestyle and community we have today.

Gaylord's experience, maturity, understanding and appropriate application of the laws are well documented. Like him or not, bias aside, he's delivered, and consistently.

In contrast, his opponent: five years experience as a Washington attorney — remarkably having not tried a SINGLE felony case, not even a misdemeanor case — draw your own conclusions there. Arguably, the most of Mr. Power's experience has been in suing the very county he wishes to represent. The Public Records Act wasn't enacted as a cash machine for the unscrupulous ... and yet he's time and time again used it to line his pockets at the cost of every taxpayer in the county. Further, Gaylord's opponent has pursued rash court actions to silence officials like our auditor, to unseat school board members, and county council members. In his brief legal career in Washington, a Skagit judge assessed him sanctions of $10,000 which remains unpaid. Yep, unpaid. How does he propose to uphold the rule of law when it apparently doesn't apply to him?

Clearly there is a lot of angst and disillusionment with regards to politics, we've seen what can happen when change is advocated at any cost. Our current world level crisis in politics should give pause, an unqualified loose cannon was voted into power. We got some real change all right. Make the prudent choice. Join me in voting Gaylord for prosecutor.

Nate Rogers
San Juan Island

I am voting to re-elect Randy Gaylord as prosecuting attorney for San Juan County. Randy is smart, honest and committed to protecting the people of San Juan County.

As a friend, I've spent many hours with Randy running trails all over San Juan County and in wilder parts of the West. Regardless of the weather or his physical state of exhaustion, Randy always remains calm, thoughtful and positive. His solid character and his skill as an attorney, manager and prosecuting attorney for several decades have enabled him to support the people of San Juan County through numerous landmark decisions. These include helping victims of crime, the county jet ski case, island-centered solid waste programs and advancing transparent public records procedures.

As a wildlife veterinarian, I especially appreciated Randy's early work protecting the Southern resident orca. In 2008, he wrote the first ordinance that established a distance requirement between the killer whales and vessels. The next year, this novel county law became state law, and later a model for federal regulation. Vote for experience and excellence. Vote Randy Gaylord for prosecuting attorney.

Joe Gaydos
Eastsound

We have known Randy Gaylord for over 20 years. We have known his family for those decades. When we think of Randy, we do not think of him as the county prosecutor, we think of him as one of the most honorable, honest, hardworking people we know.

Recently, there has been a lot of discussion about transparency in the prosecutor's race. Let us repeat: Randy is one of the most honorable, honest, hard-working people we know. Those are the very qualities that define "transparency" in context of the job of prosecutor.

We do not know Randy's opponent. But on the subject of "transparency" we have concerns. We are at a loss to understand how (Nick) Power will function in a county position given his incredible conflict of interest. It seems he has lawsuits filed, or pending, against San Juan County. So what now? Power claims he will recuse himself. Is he suggesting we vote for him, and then allow his lawsuits to continue; all the while he is serving the county. What?!

Please join us in voting for the candidate whose character and experience make him the most qualified to serve as San Juan's County prosecutor. Please vote for Randy Gaylord.

Lance Evans and Janet Brownell
Orcas Island

Vote for Krebs

I do not "Rant and Rave," rarely talk politics and never write to newspapers. After the League of Women Voters candidate forum, I must break from this practice. While there, I listened in disbelief as Jeff Asher explained that I (and 21 others) voted, as a Sheriff's Guild member, to support Ron Krebs for sheriff because I wanted to "go along to get along."

Let's be clear, I support Ron Krebs because I respect him and feel he is by far the best candidate. For Asher to imply that 23 out of 26 guild members did not support Asher because they feared retaliation from the sheriff is ridiculous and insulting to every deputy, dispatcher, sergeant, detective, and corrections officer. This is not a group of insecure people.

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