

SURVIVORS

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Asked how she made it through, Hill said, "A lot of it is mental — you have to really make yourself mentally strong."

Hill said losing the ability to keep up with her busy lifestyle made her feel she was failing.

"I called a nurse and said, 'I don't know if I can keep doing this,'" she said. "The nurse said, 'You can. You just need to pace yourself.'"

She said her friend and employee Heather Rookstool was a great support for her and took on more responsibilities at work.

"Heather really stepped up to the plate," Hill said.

Her sister was "a big impact," and other family members were also supportive, she said.

She recalled meeting a complete stranger in the Portland area, who, upon seeing Hill without her hat, gave her a thumbs up and said, "I was just like you a year ago."

Hill's next challenge will be reconstructive surgery in a couple months.

She said, although the mammogram didn't pick up her cancer, she still believes



Contributed photo

A total of 41 participants enjoyed Saturday's Rally for the Cure golf scramble, the ladies golfing in support of the cause and releasing balloons in memory of loved ones.

they are important.

"The sooner they detect it, the better," she said. "If you get it really early, you don't have to do the radiation."

She was surprised to learn how many different kinds of breast cancer exist and emphasized the importance of women being aware of their bodies.

Hill said she's attended

Tough Enough to Wear Pink and Rally for the Cure events and never thought she might one day have breast cancer herself.

"It's more common than you think," she said. "I didn't realize how common it is."

Through the ordeal, Hill learned just how tough she is.

"If I can do it, anyone can do it," she said.

41 golfers Rally for the Cure in John Day

It was rainy and cool, but 41 women enthusiastically braved the weather at Saturday's Rally for the Cure golf scramble.

Eleven teams, with decorated golf carts and colorful, creatively themed outfits, participated in the event benefiting the Susan G. Komen Foundation, held at the John Day Golf Club.

Pink and white balloons were released that afternoon in memory of loved ones who had breast cancer.

Members of the winning team were Melody Miller, Kathy Gregory, Julie Proctor and LaVonne Slinkard. The winner of the chip up contest was Melody Miller.

"We raised just over \$4,000 from golf entries and auction," said organizer Kimberly Ward, adding attendance was up by 12 this year. "The weather didn't stop anyone from having a good time and remembering the cause."

DEBATE

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tance of leveling the playing field and closing the opportunity and achievement gap that has developed between urban and rural Oregon. He said he will work diligently to bring Oregon together.

"I believe that I'm uniquely qualified to bridge that gap and create one Oregon, which we all desire," he said.

Brown said she's already been involved in helping with the solution, noting she worked with a Republican leader "to invest \$1.8 million to build internet access" in Grant County through an appropriation to the city of John Day.

"It's so key for our rural communities that our schools be connected, that our homes be connected and, of course, our businesses be connected," she said. "It gives rural Oregon the opportunity to grow and thrive and create good-paying jobs in every single nook and cranny across the state."

Starnes said he served on the McKenzie school board,



Contributed photo

Grant Union High School senior McKeely Miller asks a question directed at candidates for governor, from left, Rep. Knute Buehler, Gov. Kate Brown and Patrick Starnes during the Oct. 2 debate at Roosevelt High School in Portland.

with only 200 students in the school district.

"We struggled with that directly — having access," he said. "I feel like the biggest important job for the governor is to connect these dots that are already existing ..."

"I thought Gov. Brown did a pretty good job responding to my question," Miller said, adding Buehler "acknowledged that it was a problem but didn't necessarily address the solution."

Miller said she felt the debate was a good opportunity

to highlight issues from her community. She said she liked the format and the opportunity for young people to ask questions, but she wished there had been more youths representing the eastern side of the state.

One student from Prineville and another from Pendleton were the only other students from east of the Cascades.

Miller said an exciting moment came after the debate.

"We were able to meet the only female state governors

in Oregon in the whole state history, Gov. Brown and former Gov. Barbara Roberts," she said.

Joining Miller in attending the debate and on a tour of the state Capitol were two fellow students, senior Tanner Elliott and junior Tyler Blood.

Elliott, who is Grant Union's student body president, said attending the debate live was a different experience.

"It's more personal," he said.

He said it was unfair that students more often directed their questions to Brown and Buehler, excluding Starnes.

"The rest of it was good," he said. "It was fun to see Gov. Brown and Buehler 'exchange blows' with one another."

Elliott said it will be a close race.

"It's going to be a crucial election to see if Oregonians want change or if they want to stick with the policies of the past and present," he said.

Elliott, who wants to be involved at the state level and "hopefully the national level" of government, said he has a summer internship planned with Sen. Ron Wyden's office.

"The youth of this country should get more involved," he said. "We have some major problems facing our country, and we need great leaders and great people to solve these problems."

Blood said she thought the debate went well, but she was disappointed in some of the candidates' answers. She said both Buehler and Brown, at times, didn't answer how they would solve an issue.

Blood, who is the junior class president at Grant Union, said one girl from Portland was "very tenacious" in her questioning. The girl wanted a direct answer on how to stop LGBT bullying in schools.

She agreed rural areas were underrepresented.

"I thought it was too bad that we only had a couple representatives from frontier communities," Blood said.

Students selected to ask questions at the debate had entered a video demo and were interviewed before being selected from a Children First for Oregon panel of judges, which hosted the debate along with Pamplin Media Group and KOIN News.

COUNCIL

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Shannon Adair

Adair was appointed to the council last September to fill the position vacated by Lisa Weigum. A 1985 Grant Union High School graduate, Adair has a bachelor's in business administration from Oregon State University and is a co-owner of the 1188 Brewing Company in John Day.

Adair said she worked outside the area for 10 years after college but returned because she wanted to raise her children in John Day and start a business here. She coached the high school dance team for 19 years and started Body Fitness & Dance in John Day, which she later sold.

"Having a business here, it made sense to be on the city council," she said.

Adair is a board member of the Grant County Chamber of Commerce. She said part of her job with the council is to make connections between businesses and the council. A goal is to help John Day merchants work together for the good of everyone.

She also serves on the city's Technical Advisory Committee, which assists in planning for the city's many economic development projects. The urban renewal plan, Innovation Gateway project, sewer treatment plant and planning for parks, recreation and pool are all tied together and related, she said — one impacts the other.

The public should expect to see changes in the next few years as these projects move from planning to implementation, she said. All projects take time, and it's important to communicate progress to the public. She encouraged residents to come to council meetings and listen to the discussion.

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Adair is a board member of the Grant County Chamber of Commerce, the Oregon State Snowmobilers Association and the Grant County Snowballers. He's also volunteered for the county's search and rescue group.

Haberly said he wants to serve on the council to help John Day and Grant County by helping make the decisions that will make the city a better place for people who choose to move here.

He said he has no specific concerns and no agenda. Using taxpayers' money wisely and making wise decisions is his goal, he said.

Haberly said the public may not recognize the future benefits the current projects will provide the city. He noted that the city is not accumulating debt, and people who say that should come to city council meetings and learn about these projects.

Some people may think the city is moving too fast, but Haberly said he thinks everything's fine. He's a businessman who tries to make wise businesslike decisions, he said. He credited City Manager Nick Green with obtaining grant money to pay for planning and building.

Proceeding in a positive manner is important, Haberly said. Supporting broadband was the right move for the city because it's the wave of the future, he said.

Grant County was once a prosperous place until environmentalists got involved, he said. The community needs to work together to succeed. The city also needs to keep the public informed, Haberly said.

Paul C. Smith

Smith has been on the council for six years after being appointed in 2013. He has bachelor's and master's degrees and worked in education for 30 years. He retired from the Grant County

Education Service District about two years ago, where he handled curriculum and grant writing.

Like many candidates, Smith wanted a position on the city council because he wanted to serve the community. He said he's vested in the community — he built a house here, raised his children here and worked in the community until he retired.

Smith said he's a fiscal conservative who is concerned about infrastructure, particularly ensuring the integrity of the city's water and sewer systems and maintaining roads. He supports plans for a new treatment plant that will produce reclaimed water because water is a critical resource in this area. He cited Prairie City's recent problems as an example.

Smith said he also wants to ensure the financial integrity of the numerous city projects. He hopes financing for the new sewer treatment plant can be met with sales of reclaimed water, rather than by raising customer rates.

Taking on the downtown Weaver Building project was a hard decision, but once the state fire marshal got involved, the city was concerned the building would have been condemned. The goal is to mitigate asbestos, address fire hazards and then sell the building, he said.

The incentive provided in the urban renewal program will help address the city's aging and inadequate housing stock, he said. The city needs more rental units, he noted.

After two years of planning projects and getting them through bureaucratic red tape, he wants to see them completed in the next four years. He doesn't want the city to bite off more than it can chew, but he also wants the city to be progressive about the steps it takes to help the community thrive.

Chris Labhart

Labhart has lived in John Day since 1962 and is no newcomer to local government. He has a bachelor's in language arts from Western University and taught for 33 years in Salem and John Day before retiring in 2003.

Growing up, Labhart worked on ranches bucking hay and delivering calves, in timber mills in Mt. Vernon and John Day and with the Forest Service's road department. Today he is a tour guide at the Kam Wah Chung State Heritage Site and runs the Friends of Kam Wah Chung store. He also taught hunter safety courses for more than 20 years.

Labhart served as mayor of Canyon City and then more than 20 years as a John Day councilor and mayor. He also served one term as a Grant County commissioner. He also has participated in numerous civic organizations, including the Grant County Chamber of Commerce, the John Day Senior Center, the Blue Mountain Hospital District board and a regional health advisory committee covering 12 Eastern Oregon counties.

As mayor, he helped the Third Street extension and new fire hall projects move forward, and he worked to get the Oregon Trail Electrical Cooperative to buy out the previous utility company and take over service for the area.

Labhart said he wants to be involved in the community and has much to offer the city council. He said he works well with a variety of groups and has a "great network" of local and state government officials.

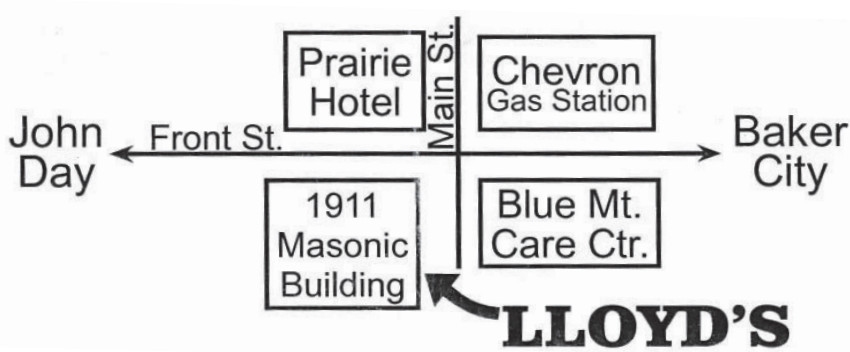
Looking forward, Labhart noted that increasing broadband access for the area is extremely important if the city wants to keep young workers. He said he'd rather be proactive than reactive and supports the Innovation Gateway project, but he notes that with the hospital bond soon ending, there will be competition for funding for a new city sewer, junior-senior high school and swimming pool facility.

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