

Help make a better and wetter future

To the Editor:
Hello, Grant County, my name is Quinn Larson and I encourage you to vote yes on Measure 12-85 to build a new pool.

For nearly a decade I was an avid swimmer on our local swim team. Now, as a Grant Union senior preparing for college, I can say without hesitation that swimming is a necessary lifesaving skill.

This summer I had an opportunity to use those very skills I learned to aid an elderly man who fell into the rapids on the Snake River. I was in a nearby raft and, thanks to my proximity and swimming ability, was able to help and in the end everyone was fine.

In considering the events later, I was thankful not only for the opportunity to have learned to swim at Gleason Pool, but also for all the dedicated coaches and people who made it a safe and fun gathering place for everyone to learn the skill of swimming.

After all, without people, it is just a hole with water in it. But with your vote we can make it a community pool, filled with happy kids and grandkids, and knowing we can all be proud we chipped in to build and make a better and hopefully wetter future.

Please vote yes on 12-85.

Quinn Larson
Canyon City

Pool bond: It's our turn to step up

To the Editor:
We received our ballots in the mail this week and are excited for the chance to vote to support the pool bond. We believe that the pool as planned has been well thought out. As parents, we are hopeful that our community can come together to support this vital amenity so that our children have the opportunity to learn to swim safely. We are thankful to those in previous generations who paid for the Gleason Pool, and we believe that it is our turn to step up and provide a pool for the next generation.

We feel that in order to protect our tax base, we need to ensure that we are maintaining critical facilities, such as pools and parks, that will attract families to our area.

We hope those of you on the fence will join us in voting yes on Ballot Measure 12-85.

Thank you, neighbors.

Heather and Zac Bailey
Canyon City

Pool is a want, not a need

To the Editor:
With inflation so high and projected to go higher, how can our city try to raise taxes on a "want"? A swimming pool is not a "need."

I was at the city council meeting when Heather Rookstool brought up the possibility of constructing the pool for the cost of the \$2 million grant the city received. She was verbally abused by Shannon Adair and Dave Holland, also a woman from the audience. Neither the mayor, Ron Lundbom, nor the new city manager, Corum Ketchum, intervened to stop the verbal abuse. Council members Dave Holland and Elliot Sky then told Heather Rookstool — in front of everyone at the meeting — "You don't give the people a choice, it only causes problems."

I have a city issue I want to discuss with Dave Holland. I have emailed him several times over, and he will not respond. It is his responsibility to listen to the concerns of the citizens of John Day. I urge everyone to vote in new council members so the people can have a voice. We need council members to "give the people a choice" and we need members to listen to and respond to citizens' concerns instead of ignoring them.

Please vote for Heather Rookstool for mayor and Ronald "Ron" Phillips, Sherrie Rininger and Richard "Richie" Colbeth for city council members. Take back our city from those turning us into a version of little Portland by defunding and demolishing our police department while simultaneously moving a pot shop into the city limits and now not putting the psilocybin ban on the John Day ballot. Prairie City and the county have both approved this measure to appear on this year's ballot. Why didn't John Day?

John Meiling
John Day

FIST BUMP



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Build a pool for next generation

To the Editor:
My husband and I both had the privilege of growing up in small rural towns where the community gathered together and provided safe swimming venues for lessons and recreation. While growing up in John Day in the early '50s, I had my first swim lessons at the J-Bar-L pool south of Canyon City. Neighbors carpooled to get all the neighborhood kids to lessons. Mothers and teenagers were the instructors and helpers. Some kids were transported by school bus.

When I was 8, Gleason Pool opened and that brought long summer afternoons swimming with friends under the careful supervision of the older kids in the neighborhood who were now lifeguards. Some of my best memories are watching my dad do a swan dive off the diving board and the neighbors' dad swimming an amazing number of laps each evening.

In later years, my children learned to swim as toddlers and continued through high school on swim team. Not too much later, we became swim team grandparents as five of our grandchildren swam for the John Day Swim Team. Many of the grandchildren learned to swim at Gleason Pool. Our boys were lifeguards, swim instructors and one a swim team coach.

Four generations of my family benefited from the work of those in the mid-1950s who built a pool for generations to come. Now it is time for us to ensure generations to come will have a safe place to learn, exercise and swim for pleasure. We are more than willing to do our part so that families in the future will have the same benefits a pool provided for us. Vote yes on 12-85. For our kids, for the future.

Beth Spell
John Day

Vote for the pool to support kids

To the Editor:
I want to say first off that I understand the reasons why some people don't want a pool. We are allowed to have our own opinions based on our values and vote accordingly. I myself am in favor of a pool. I would also be one of the people paying for it.

We all know that pools are fun, safe, healthy, and socially engaging for people of all ages, but the biggest reason I'm pro-pool is because of the mental health crisis. We have been isolated for years. Kids more than ever are hooked on screens and social media. They sit behind a computer for school and play video games at home. Kids need healthy social outlets for proper development, and they aren't getting it. Parents need a break, and they aren't getting it. We need joy in our lives now more than ever, and we aren't getting it.

I love this community because of its rugged individualism and willingness to help people in need. Around here we take care of each other. We always have. This is our village. We go to fundraisers and donate our time and money to all kinds of causes. The pool is no different ... voting for the pool even if you won't be the one to use it is supporting the community.

If you vote for the pool for any one reason, let that reason be that the world needs connection to thrive and be self-sufficient. We cannot punish a struggling generation of children and expect them to be happy and successful. A pool is one of the few places in the world where you cannot bring your phone. It's a place to forget about our problems, get a break, smile and connect. Pools are powerful healing. Join

me in voting yes for the pool.

Sarah Brown
John Day

Vote 'yes' on pool for a better future

To the Editor:
Crisp fall mornings and falling leaves make it difficult to remember the long, hot days of summer. Yet elections in November affect our communities for many future summers, many future years. As a former physician whose heart remains firmly attached to John Day, I am writing to urge you to support Measure 12-85, the pool bond.

Long before arriving in Grant County I heard from friends about the importance the pool and swim team had played in their children's lives. Andrea and I saw the same as our three kids learned to swim at Gleason Pool and then spent summers training with the swim team or simply playing with friends to get out of the heat. Healthy summer activities for kids are essential for their development and future as well as the future of our communities.

A community pool is a very special type of pool. It takes citizens who look beyond our individual needs and recognize the importance of pitching together to create a future for our children. Together we vote to support each other. Over 50% of property owners in the JDCC Parks and Rec District would pay less than \$10/month. In addition to summer fun, the pool would be a great resource for people looking to stay fit, either through swimming or pool walking, a great option for those trying to lose weight, older patients looking for a safe workout, those with arthritis and those of us still young at heart.

I see a bright future for John Day with families committed to each other and families growing old together. I believe a pool facility would be a big part of that. I urge you to vote "yes" for Measure 12-85.

Andrew Janssen, MD
Hillsboro

Editor's note: Janssen was a physician in John Day from 2005 to 2015 and continues to help cover the emergency room on the weekends.

Some questions about the pool

To the Editor:
Pool questions:

- 1. What is the proposed length of pool season? (Old pool was open nine to 10 weeks out of 52.)
- 2. Days and hours of expected operations?
- 3. Price of daily admission for an adult? Child?

These questions need answers before voting on the pool bond. If there is already an estimate of annual operation costs, these surely have been factored.

Ellen Bush
John Day

It's past time to drain the swamp

Corruption in our federal government is front and center for the whole world to see. They don't even try to hide it anymore. To think that there is no corruption in local small-town governments is naive. One only needs to look as far as the city of John Day. There has been too many questionable, illegitimate and possibly illegal actions brought on by JD city government.

Examples:
The greenhouse failure which was, like everything else, blamed on COVID. The very questionable land sale of the old mill site. The public bathrooms. BTW, I built a 3,000

square-foot house (mostly by myself) in the amount of time that it took the city to construct two bathrooms. The original intent of those bathrooms was to create parking space that the downtown area desperately needed. Instead, it is set up for food carts, etc., which will take business away from local restaurants.

Had you listened to Nick Green on "Coffee Time," you realized that the local police department was very low on the priority list, in fact something he couldn't wait to dissolve, just like the pool. I am not opposed to a pool, just opposed to the way they are handling it. With a changing population bringing increased problems to John Day, residents need the PD more than ever.

Residents are paying huge money for a consultant that they don't need. How far would those dollars go to fuel a local police department? I am a Mt. Vernon resident. These items do affect me. Grant County can do better.

When our new city manager took the job, he probably didn't realize what he was walking into. I'm sure that he is doing the best that he can.

It is time to drain the swamp in the federal government and the John Day city government. Out with the old. In with the new.

Larry DeCew
Mt. Vernon

Join me in opposing Ballot Measure 114

To the Editor:
Measure 114 is promoted as reduction in gun use-related violence. This is more deceptive marketing by those who continue to place highly restrictive and costly limits on our natural, God-given and constitutional protected rights to purchase and own firearms. This does nothing to address the unacceptable human behavior and violence that continues to occur.

Measure 114, in part, has the following effects: 1) Requires a non-existing permit system to purchase a firearm. 2) Places unnecessary burden on local law enforcement agencies, which would be under no obligation to issue permits. 3) Requires enormous financial cost to the taxpayer. 4) Creates a searchable database of all permit holders. 5) Outlaws firearms that can hold 10 or more rounds internally. 6) Infringes on and penalizes the law-abiding firearm owners. 7) Will have a negative impact on wildlife conservation funding.

If you want freedom for yourself, you must extend this to others. Unfortunately, the proponents of this measure are opposing and undermining our freedom as law-abiding citizens.

As a people we must stop overlooking another person's rights to achieve our own selfish desires and goals.

Please join me in voting "no" on Measure 114.

Louis E. Provencher
John Day

Lundbom's leadership best for John Day

To the Editor:
Mayor Lundbom has led the city during a historical period of renewal. Under his leadership, John Day appears poised for growth for the first time in decades. We see new homes under construction, new subdivisions in development, and much-needed investment in our critical infrastructure, including roads, bridges, and the new wastewater treatment plant.

Ron is committed to seeing these projects through. He's also willing to address the longstanding need for law enforcement services by working with the county to develop a countywide solution to policing that includes all our communities — ensuring a fair outcome for John Day residents.

Ron has the experience and leadership John Day needs. He's served 18 years on the city council, including two terms as mayor. He understands what it takes to work with the city manager and staff to execute the council's vision and direction.

Ron listens to constituents and genuinely desires to help our community succeed. He takes the time to meet with residents who have concerns. Ron is open-minded and willing to consider alternative viewpoints. As such, he has earned the respect of the city council.

Recently retired, he is a lifelong John Day resident. Working since his teens, he was the owner and operator of a highly successful business here for 20-plus years. He wants our community to thrive.

Mayor Lundbom has the experience we need at this critical time when so many projects are coming to fruition. When I think of the qualities I want

to see in a mayor — openness, honesty, integrity, consistency — I think of Mayor Lundbom. He's the clear choice for our community. Vote to re-elect Mayor Lundbom, and let's keep the great work going.

Dan Cronin
John Day

What would you want to do without?

To the Editor:
Which of these would you actually eliminate? Which political party(s) pushed them through?

- The Constitution, i.e. We the People.
- The Bill of Rights.
- The Pledge of Allegiance ... with liberty and justice for all.
- Separation of church and state.
- A free and open press.
- Abolition of slavery.
- Woman suffrage.
- Child labor laws.
- The right to unionize with collective bargaining.
- Civil rights legislation.
- The Great Society and the War on Poverty.
- The New Deal and Civilian Conservation Corps.
- Social Security.
- Medicare.
- Medicaid.
- Affordable Care Act.
- Emergency medical services.
- Food stamps to 44.5 million in poverty.
- The GI Bill.
- The EPA.
- The U.S. military and all its equal support services.
- The interstate highway system and infrastructure.
- Street lights and road systems.
- National parks and U.S. Forest Service.
- Fire and police services.
- Public schools.
- U.S. Post Office.
- Farm subsidies.
- Oil subsidies.
- Corporate subsidies.
- Saving the U.S. auto industry after the financial collapse.

Jim Bay
John Day

Lundbom is the leader John Day needs

To the Editor:
I'm writing in support of Ron Lundbom for mayor of John Day. I served as a council member for 16 years and worked with Ron Lundbom during that time. Mayors represent their cities in many ways, to many other organizations and areas outside of the community and state. It is critical that our mayor is a respected and knowledgeable representative for our city.

In last week's Eagle, candidate for mayor Heather Rookstool stated she had concerns about a loan she "recently" discovered. The reality is that she not only knew about the loans as far back as February 2022, she voted in favor of those loans twice.

1. 02/22/2022: Rookstool participated in a joint meeting with the John Day/Canyon City Parks and Recreation District board and John Day City Council. She voted in favor of Resolution 11:881-02 authorizing the city to contribute \$3 million to the pool project, and approving D.A Davidson as the city's loan agent for the funds.

2. 05/24/2022: Rookstool voted in favor of Resolution 22-890-11, which authorized a \$3 million full faith and credit borrowing for the pool. During the discussion, a citizen brought up the loan cost, which staff said would be about \$100,000 per year over the course of 10 years. Mrs. Rookstool then voted to approve the resolution.

For Mrs. Rookstool to now claim that she has "recently discovered" that there would be a loan is alarming, given that she voted to authorize that exact loan two times.

Either Mrs. Rookstool doesn't have a solid understanding of basic city operations and doesn't understand what she has voted on, or she is intentionally making false claims to further her political aspirations. This is not the first example of her lack of diligence or understanding. She is not prepared nor does she seem to have the temperament and experience to lead a city.

Mayor Ron Lundbom has the experience and knowledge to serve our community and help several very important projects continue to a successful completion. His leadership is needed to ensure that happens.

My vote is for Ron Lundbom for mayor.

Steve Schuette
John Day

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Editor	Bennett Hall, bhall@bmeagle.com
Reporters	Tony Chiotti, tchiotti@bluountaineagle.com Justin Davis, jdavis@bluountaineagle.com
Sports	sports@bmeagle.com
Page Designer	Randy Wrigthhouse, rwrighthouse@eomediagroup.com
Marketing Rep	Kim Kell, ads@bmeagle.com
Office Assistant	Alixandra Hand, office@bmeagle.com

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