

School board candidates speak out

Some candidates decide not to respond to questionnaire

In an effort to inform the voting public on the candidates they will be voting on in the election next Tuesday, the Heppner Gazette-Times has submitted a questionnaire to all of the school board and school board advisory hopefuls.

The articles on this "Election Page" were written from information obtained from the candidates who returned the questionnaire.

The following candidates did not respond.

Shane Fritz—a candidate for the school board advisory committee for Boardman Position No. 2.

Gail Hughes—a candidate for the Heppner Position No. 5 on the advisory board.

Judy Bushke—a candidate for Heppner Position No. 1 on the advisory board.

Paul Tews—a candidate for the advisory board for Ione Position No. 1.

Ed Patton—a candidate for the school board at-large position.

Zone II

John Matthews unopposed

John F. Matthews, Rt. 2 Box 92 in Irrigon, is running for re-election for the Irrigon Zone II position on the Morrow County School Board.



John Matthews

He is a maintenance employee of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The 42-year-old has a wife, Shirley, a son,

Randall Matthews, and a daughter, Cynthia MaLone. He has lived in Morrow County for 12 years.

Matthews has spent eight years on the Morrow County School Board as director and two years as assistant director.

"My goal as a board member is to have equal educational opportunities for all students in Morrow County," Matthews said.

Zone V

Greene challenges incumbent

Robert L. Greene Jr., P.O. Box 118 in Heppner, is competing against Jean Bennett, the incumbent, for the Morrow County School Board Zone V position from the Heppner rural area.

Greene, 29, is a member of the Morrow County Search and Rescue team, a member of the Elks Lodge, and a Heppner Little League Baseball coach.



Robert Greene

He has lived in Morrow County for eight years and has a wife, Susan, and two children: Ron, 10, and Dava, 9.

Greene graduated from high school in Okanogan, Wash., and went to school for two years at Wenatchee Valley College. He was employed at Kinzua until its recent closure and has now embarked on a new business career as a financial broker. He also has an import and export business.

"Heppner is my home," Greene said. "I now have the time and I want to do my part in helping with the growth of our area."

As to Greene's goals if elected to a school board position, he said, "With the competitiveness for our children of today, I would not only do my best to maintain the standards we now have, but also to improve the educational capabilities of our school systems throughout the community. There is always room for improvement."

Bennett faces Greene in school board race

Jean Bennett, 49, is being challenged by Robert L. Greene for her position on the school board, Zone V from Heppner.

She has served on the school board for the past four years. She has also been active on the fair committee, worked with the 4-H as a club leader, is a past-president of the American Legion Auxiliary and the Morrow County CowBelles organizations. She also is a member of the Eastern Star, the Methodist Church and is the State Brand Inspector for Morrow County.

She has lived in Heppner all of her life and graduated from Heppner High School. She has been married to her husband, Don, for 30 years and she works with him on their farm. The Bennetts have three daughters: Debby Johnston, who has two daughters of her own, Kimberly, 5, and Jodi, 3; Judy Barber, who is employed at the Bank of Eastern



Jean Bennett

Oregon; and Sandy Bennett, who works at the Soil and Conservation Service office.

"If elected, I want to continue to improve the present high level of education that is being offered in Morrow County schools at the present time," Bennett said. "Other goals are to provide educational opportunities according to the growth of the county and to use sound judgement in all decisions."

Zone VII

Stokey opposes budget

Monte Stokey is a candidate for the 7A school board position from Heppner.

Stokey, P.O. Box 66, is 41-years-old and has been active in the Heppner Little League program for seven years. He is also a member of the Heppner Elks Club and an Emergency Medical Technician (E.M.T.) at the hospital.

If elected, Stokey said he will be an active board member with an emphasis on "Active."

Stokey is a high school graduate and has taken two years of business management courses at a community college. He works in the log yard and as a plywood production manager for Kinzua Corp. He has lived in Morrow County for six years.

His family of eight includes his wife, Sharon, and sons Mike, 18, Ken, 16, Andy, 15, and another Mike, 7. His daughters are Marcie, 12, and Kim, 7.

Stokey said he is not sold on the new school budget that has

been approved by the school board this year. He also does not agree with the tax base that has been approved by the board that if passed would allow the budget to increase 18.5 percent a year which is "unreasonable and makes it too easy on them (the school board)," Stokey said.



Monte Stokey



Paul Sumner

Sumner CBEC employee

Paul Sumner, Rt. 2 Box 2397 in Heppner, is running against Monte Stokey for the Zone VII school board position from the Heppner area.

Sumner, 33, has lived in Morrow County for five years and has a wife and two children. He is a staff assistant at the Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative.

Sumner has been a member of the Heppner Advisory

Committee and the budget committee.

His major goal if elected is to "provide the best possible education for our children. In a society that is becoming more and more technology oriented, the importance of a quality education increases," he said.

Besides his high school diploma, Sumner also has an educational background of 1½ years of college.

Advisory Board Candidates

M. Jack Strege

M. Jack Strege, Rt. 1 No. 3 Eastregard Est. in Boardman, has lived in Morrow County for 18 months and is interested in becoming a member of the advisory board to the school board from the Boardman area.

He is chairman of the board for the Boardman Commercial Club, president of the Columbia Little League, president of the Boardman Lions

Club, a board of directors member of the North Morrow Medical Clinic and a member of the Morrow County School Board Budget Committee. He is an administrative supervisor.

"I have a goal to work with the school board, advisory board and school administrators and teachers to provide the best education opportunity for all Morrow County children," Strege said.

Levella Conboy

Levella Conboy, 330 N.E. 9th in Irrigon, is a candidate for the Advisory Board from the Irrigon area.

Conboy, 45, is a homemaker and teaches an adult tile painting course for Blue Mountain Community College. She has been active in high school education, 4-H and Little League.

She has a married son, another son in the Air Force, and two daughters, one who is a junior in high school.

Conboy has lived in Morrow County for four years and lived in Umatilla County for 20 years.

"If elected to this position, I would seek to have the best possible education available for our leaders and citizens of tomorrow," she said. "This is my first experience as a board member. I was named to the board to fill a vacancy and I know I have much to learn."

Conboy is the incumbent and is running unopposed.

Sharon Harrison

Sharon Harrison, Clarks Canyon Road in Lexington, is a candidate for the Lexington position on the school advisory board.

She has served on the advisory board for three years, is a Sunday School

teacher and is secretary for the Willow Creek Country Club.

Harrison, 36, has lived in Morrow County all of her life. She is a graduate of Heppner High School, is a homemaker and has four children.

Robin L. Cooper

Robin L. Cooper, 808 Mt. Hood Ave. in Boardman, is a candidate for the school advisory committee from Boardman and Irrigon.

In only 1½ years in Morrow County, the 30-year-old housewife has been active as chairman of the Boardman City Library Committee, a volunteer aide at the A.C. Houghton Grade School and a member of the Morrow County School Board Transportation Committee.

She is a high school graduate and has attended Blue Mountain Community College and Northwestern College of Business in Portland.

Cooper has a husband Robert, a son Ryan, 7, and a daughter Lisa, 6.

"Our school system will meet our needs if we are willing to work for it," Cooper said. "I have learned a great deal from working as an aide at A.C. Houghton and want to continue my involvement in school related matters."

At Large

Attorney Glenn challenges incumbent

F.E. "Ed" Glenn is a challenger, along with Sharon Hill, for the at-large school board position currently held by incumbent Pauline Winter.

Glenn, 703 Mt. Adams S.W. in Boardman, is a 39-year-old lawyer. He graduated from the University of Oregon in 1969 obtaining his Bachelor of Science Degree and he received his doctorate from the same school in 1971.

He has lived in Morrow County for 3½ years and has a wife, Frances, and two children: Harold, 9, and Laurel, 6.

Glenn served on the school board in LaGrande when it made its decisions on a \$9 million construction project, hired a new school superintendent, and he was a spokesman for the board in its first collective bargaining sessions. He was also a LaGrande Planning Commission member and has been on the State Citizens Advisory group to the Land Conservation and Development Council. Glenn has also organized the Boardman Commercial Club, the Boardman Community Club and the Riverside Booster Club.

If elected, one of the first things Glenn would push for is a "long range, cost effective maintenance and replacement plan for the entire district physical plant," he said. "With all of the major construction that has been done in the county, it is going



F.E. Glenn

to be expensive down the line to replace equipment if it is put off."

"I also want an emphasis on basic education of reading and writing skills," he continued. "People run into difficulties when they can't read. Our complex world is moving rapidly and we cannot teach technicalities to last a lifetime. A person needs to read well to learn new ideas."

He said his third goal is to make the school board responsive to the local people and to integrate the board personnel with the faculty to create an effective team.

Glenn said he feels an obligation to society to enter community service activities and he enjoys contributing to the community.

Winter runs for re-election

Pauline Winter, Rt. 2 Box 2489 in Heppner, is running for re-election for the Morrow County School Board at-large position.

The 45-year-old has been on the school board for nine years and on the Heppner Library Board for eight years. She has a background of four years in college with a political science major. She is the Civil Deputy at the Morrow County Sheriff's Office.

Winter has lived in Morrow County for 17½ years and has a son who is a junior at Heppner High School and two daughters living in Portland.

"I would like to see the board continue its policy of providing equal educational



Pauline Winter

opportunities to all attendance areas of the district," she said.

'82 model autos to be safer

More than 135 people die everyday in the United States in an automobile accident according to a U.S. Department of Transportation news release.

It said auto accidents are the leading cause of epilepsy and paraplegia.

They kill more children than any disease or other accidental cause including birth defects, drowning and fires. The statistics will potentially get worse because more people are buying smaller cars in an effort to conserve fuel, it said.

Auto injuries are worse than they could be because only 14 percent of all drivers in the U.S. wear seat belts.

Automatic seat belts and air bags will be included in 1982 models and the transportation department said they will save 9,000 lives a year and thousands of injuries. Congress and courts have upheld Brok Adams' transportation secretary, 1977 ruling that requires automobile manufacturers to include these safety devices.

In 1982, large cars will be built with air bags or automatic seat belts, they will be

required in 1983 in compact cars and 1984 in subcompact cars.

Field experiments indicate the two safety devices are reliable. Air bags have been included in some General Motors cars and automatic seat belts have been in some Volkswagen Rabbits for the last two years.

Five surveys made between 1977 and 1979 show that people favor more protection in cars by a ratio of two to one. The news release said people have little choice over what type of safety equipment is in a car. Society bears an enormous expense when automobiles are involved in crashes so it should no longer be up to an individual if he wants safety or not, the release said.

General Motors estimated that having either one of the automatic safety devices in a car will raise the prices only about \$154. Savings made from drops in insurance prices—that are scheduled to occur in cars that include the extra safety—will more than make up for the cost of the safety equipment, the release concluded.

Robert Byrd

Robert Byrd, Box 432 in Irrigon, is the only candidate for the Advisory Board for Irrigon Position No. 5.

Byrd, 37, is in the insurance business and has a Bachelor of Science Degree from Eastern Oregon State College. He has a wife, Barbara, and four sons. He has lived in Morrow County 14 years.

Byrd is a former teacher and he has been on the

advisory board for two terms. He is also on the board of directors for the Columbia Little League and the Riverside Booster Club.

"I would like to continue to provide quality education for a rapidly expanding area and to keep the channels of communication open between the public and the schools," he said.

USDA to buy suspended grain shipments

Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland recently announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture will buy wheat and corn suspended from shipment to the Soviet Union.

The Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) will offer to buy wheat. Purchases will

continue until a quantity equal to that suspended from shipment to the USSR has been

removed from the market," Bergland said.

"Our plan is to use the wheat bought by CCC for overseas food assistance programs. To this end it is essential Congress approve

legislation requested by the administration to establish a food security reserve so the quantities acquired can be transferred to that special food reserve," Bergland said.



George Koffler

to have greater accountability for how tax dollars are spent.

Koffler has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mathematics from Oregon College of Education and has 30 hours of graduate work in Mathematics. He is a loan officer at the Bank of Eastern Oregon in Heppner.

He has a wife, Debbie, and two children, Rick, 4½, and Brian, 1½. He has lived in Morrow County for five years. "I'm running for this position because I will have children in our school system in the near future," Koffler said. "I care about the direction our school system is taking and would like to have a voice in making the decisions that affect our schools. My recent involvement with the schools would provide me with some insight that the other board members might not have. I believe we can offer a quality education for our children without an overburdening tax and I would work toward that end."