

# Candidates Forum

## Port of Morrow Board of Commissioners (Vote for 3)

Six candidates have filed for three four-year positions on the Port of Morrow Board of Commissioners. Two of the candidates, Louis Carlson and Paul Jones, who currently serve on the Board are seeking re-election. The third position up for election is held by Colleen Nuttbrock who was appointed following Patricia Flug's resignation to serve the uncompleted portion of her term. The four other candidates who have filed are Matt Doherty, Paul H. Taylor, William Sharkey, and Daniel Creamer.

The port commissioners meet regularly once each month and must also attend budget and other special sessions. Some traveling is involved, says former commissioner Flug, when commissioners must attend congressional sessions involving issues which effect the port. The port must remain aware of problems and work with city, county, state and federal officials. The Port Manager runs the port but is responsible and answerable to the commission. The Commission sets policy for the port, an important job because of the increased activity at the port during recent years. Two commissioners, Leroy Gaudner and Larry Lindsay, are serving terms which are not up for election this year.

Jones began his association with the Port of Morrow in 1965 while serving as county judge. He testifies to working with the commission to help in the development of the port. Carlson began serving the port when appointed to Gar Swanson's term. He has since been re-elected to a four-year term. He says "the primary goal of the Port of Morrow is to assist private enterprise in the economic development of Morrow county." He believes that the county's natural resources should be sold in processed form and that the county's tax base should be broadened to include products other than those from agriculture.

Jones cites several changes at the port during the past four years: the Commission has approved and seen put into operation: a modern corn drying, storage and shipping facility; a log loading facility; a chip unloading and shipping facility; and a modern barge dock.

Carlson points out the port's active role in locating two major food processors, two lumber processors-exporters, and a coal fired plant. He further points to the port's progress in building a modern dock for loading containers, constructing a grain handling facility, and its assistance in developing hay cube manufacturing plant.

Candidate Daniel Creamer said in a statement to the press, "I feel with my experience I have something to offer Morrow County especially where they are developing the water front and I would work with them to make way for more jobs."

Candidate William Sharkey told the Gazette-Times that is "fully aware of the impact" the Port has as the landlord for Morrow County's largest employers, and that he has become familiar with the port and its responsibilities to local industry and to the county. He says he is "actively working to coordinate municipal systems between the Port of Morrow and the City of Boardman to reduce costs and improve service to the Port's tenants. It is my goal," he concludes, "to retain our current agriculturally-based industry and create an atmosphere that will invite additional diversified industry and expand the region's economic base, creating jobs and providing markets for locally grown products."

Candidate Matthew Doherty, in a statement to the Gazette-Times, said "I have always held a strong interest in happenings involving the Port of Morrow. I see the Port as extremely important to a healthy economic growth in this county. We

have great potential here, but it must always be kept in mind that we are in competition with other ports for good industrial development. Good leadership in the past," he concludes, "has kept us a frontrunner. I want to see these efforts continued as our port grows in value to the county."

As a candidate for re-election, Jones says "the Port must continue to improve and expand and (I) pledge my best efforts to see it accomplished."

Carlson, in a candidate's statement to the Gazette-Times says "A conservative value of these additions (developments by and at the Port) to the Morrow County tax base would be \$100 to \$150 million. These things we have done with approximately the same tax levy as the Morrow County Cemetery District of \$40,000."

A sixth candidate for the Board of Commissioners, Paul H. Taylor, Lexington, did not respond to a Gazette-Times questionnaire.



**Louis Carlson, 54, Heppner**, is a self-employed farmer-rancher. He and his wife Betty have four children, aged 33, 31, 29 and 25.

He has served as President of the Oregon Wheat Growers League, chairman of the transportation committee for the National Association of Wheat Growers, chairman of the Port of Morrow Commission, and as a member of the Ione Advisory Committee and the Morrow County A.S.C. Committee.

Carlson is a 4-H club leader, a Morrow County Extension advisory member and a member of Valby Lutheran Church and Council.

He attended Ione High School and Oregon State University and has been a lifetime resident of Morrow County.



**Paul W. Jones, 74, Heppner**, is retired. He and his wife, Blanche have three children, aged 47, 42, and 37.

He served two terms as Morrow County judge and four years as a port commissioner.

He is secretary of the Heppner chapter of the Royal Arch Masons, chairman of the board and elder of First Christian Church and a member of the governor's commission on Senior Services.

He was born in Morrow County and attended high school



**Matthew Doherty, 57, Irrigon** is a self-employed farmer and mobile home court manager. He and his wife, Doris have three children, aged 26, 28, and 29.

He has served as superintendent of Morrow County Schools and as a member of the Oregon State Textbook Commission. He is a member of the Morrow County Mental Health advisory committee, the Morrow County Road Committee and the County Budget Committee. He has been active in "numerous professional and volunteer committees and organizations."

He has a Bachelors degree in education and a Masters degree in public school administration.



**William Sharkey, 47, Boardman**, is self-employed in trucking and farming. He and his wife Lonnie have three children aged 16, 21, and 23.

He has served two years on the planning commission, eight years on the Boardman city council, eight years on the Boardman Park and Recreation District (seven years as chairman), and on the Boardman Cemetery District Board.

He attended Columbia Preparatory School for four years and the University of Oregon for three years.



**Daniel Creamer, Irrigon**, is a retired river captain. He is married with three children. He is a former Supt. of Operations.

state matching funds, preliminary survey and engineering for the proposed Ione-Boardman road, and maintenance and striping of existing roads. New equipment which the department would buy includes a semi-tractor for use of the fifth wheel with equipment the department already has, two pup-trailers to transfer rock to job sites, a dump box to be used on the semi-tractor, two pickups, a portable traffic strip-er, and two snow plows.

## School District Board of Directors Position No. 7 at-large (Vote for 1)



**John T. Jensen, 36, Boardman**, is a Supervisor at Portland General Electric. He and his wife, Jeanette, have four children aged 13, 12, 7 and 6.

He is presently serving on the Boardman-Irrigon Advisory Board and has served three years as president of the North Morrow Co. Vector Control Board. He is serving as a budget committee member for the city of Boardman and the parks and recreation district.

Jensen is currently working on a Bachelor of Science degree at Eastern Oregon State College and is a licensed Marine Engineer.



**Douglas C. Rathbun, 42, Heppner**, is employed by the city of Heppner as Chief of Police. He and his wife, Georgia, have three children aged 19, 16, and 11.

He has served 19 years in city government and is a member of Friendship Baptist Church and a past chairman of the Morrow County Peace Officers Association.

Rathbun has graduated from high school and the Oregon Police Academy. He also has a degree from Blue Mountain Community College and five years of bookkeeping experience.



**Keith Nelson, 34, Lexington**, is a self-employed wheat farmer. He and his wife, Leticia, have two children aged two and six.

He has served on the Morrow County School District budget committee.

Nelson graduated from Ione High School and attended college for three years. He has a "wide business background gained from jobs in many different regions of the country."



**Lee Padberg, 39, Lexington**, is a self-employed farmer. He and his wife, Linda, have two children, aged 17 and 14.

He has previously served as the mayor of Lexington and as an associate board member for Morrow County Grain Growers.

He is president of the Heppner High School Booster Club and a Colt basketball coach. He has served as a rodeo board member and as a boy scout helper.

Padberg's educational background includes one year at Boise College, two years at Columbia Basin College, and one year at Blue Mountain Community College.

## Advisory Committees

Seven positions are up for election on the various local school advisory committees. Only two of those positions, No. 3 on the Ione-Lexington advisory committee and No. 6 on the Heppner-Lexington committee are contested. Dana Heideman and Keith Rea have both filed to succeed incumbent Perry Morter who is not seeking re-election to Ione-Lexington No. 3. Marcia Kemp and Michael Vejraska have filed for Heppner Lexington advisory committee Position No. 6. Julie Ashbeck is Position 6 incumbent; Barbara Hayes currently is serving in Position No. 4 for which Dianna Hoeft is a candidate.

Marvin Padberg has filed for re-election to Position No. 2 on the Ione Lexington advisory committee.

No one has filed for either Position No. 4 or Position No. 5 on the Boardman-Irrigon advisory committee. Position No. 5 is currently vacant; No. 4 is held by John Wenholz. Richard Nuttbrock has filed to succeed Carol Titus to Position No. 3 on the advisory committee.

The advisory committee, according to District Superintendent Doyle McCaslin, listens to public input concerning its satisfaction with staff and makes decisions about community use of school buildings for non-school activities. Advisory committee members also help with budgeting by examining the needs of the schools.

### Position No. 3 Ione-Lexington



**Dianna Hoeft, 30, Hardman**, is a housewife. She and her husband, Gerald, have two children aged 15 and 12.

She is a graduate of Heppner High School and lists no previous experience in public office.

Hoeft says she is interested in school policies and as an advisory committee member would like to help the school system run smoothly and "follow up on all complaints received."

**Keith C. Rea, 47, Ione**, is a self-employed farmer. He and his wife, Judy, have four children, aged 27, 22, 18, and 15.

He is a member of the Ione Community and Agri-Business Organization and the board of directors of McNary Yacht Club. He is a former trustee of the Ione United Church of Christ and has served on the Morrow County School Transportation Committee.

Rea graduated from Ione High School and studied for two years at Oregon Institute of Technology.

He says he is "interested in the quality of the education of our students in Morrow County Schools. As an interested parent... I would like to see the high level of education continue."

### Heppner-Lexington Position No. 4

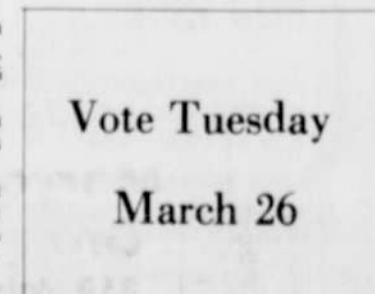


**Marcia Kemp, 34, Heppner**, is a reporter for the "Agri-Times" weekly newspaper. She and her husband Gary have two children aged seven and six.

She is publicity director for the Morrow County Rodeo Board and has been a volunteer story teller for four years at Heppner Public Library.

Kemp has a Bachelor of Science degree in Journalism from Oregon State University.

She says that as a kindergarten aide for two years, she has gained experience which would benefit the advisory committee. She says that the advisory position is a key to being able to work with "teachers, parents, students, and administrators in achieving the best educational opportunities for our children."



Hoeft says she is interested in school policies and as an advisory committee member would like to help the school system run smoothly and "follow up on all complaints received."

## County asks \$2,980,470 one-year special levy

Morrow County voters will be asked to approve a one-year special operating levy of \$2,980,470. This is \$398,081 more than last year, a 20 percent increase. The tax rate will increase to \$4.19 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. The total county budget which includes the \$492,453 county tax base and all county income other than property taxes is \$8,284,279.

The budget includes no salary increases for elected officials; other salary increases of three to four percent are based on union contract negotiations. The county has budgeted funds to close up operations at

thener Sanitary Landfill. No funds are included for developing or operating a landfill at a different site.

The hospital budget includes \$459,357 in tax dollars to supplement the hospital's other income.

This amount is needed to maintain minimum standards for the hospital and nursing home, replace deteriorating equipment and to pay salaries, the physician recruiting firm's fee.

The road department budget requires \$1,269,290 tax dollars necessary to balance its budget. Major projects which the department will pay for include restoration of three county bridges (partially funded by

## School budget calls for local tax increase

The Morrow County School District is proposing to levy \$6,685,733 in local taxes which is \$1,101,763 more than was levied last year, a 19.7 percent increase in local taxes. The reasons for the increases are staff additions at the north end schools, a proposed seven percent raise in classified and teacher salaries, a 3.1 percent increase in administrative salaries, and increases in rates for

garbage, water, sewer, and telephone services which must be purchased from agencies outside the school district.

\$5,544,042 of the tax levy is eligible for partial state funding; \$1,141,691 of the amount is not eligible for partial state funding. The total school budget, including outside revenue, is \$8,684,303, up 12.8 percent over last year.

## Mark your ballots

Tuesday,  
March 26

Vote Tuesday  
March 26