March Election Candidates/Ballot Measures

Six seek three available port spots

Six candidates have filed for three positions up for election on the Port of Morrow Board of Commissioners. Three candidates are currently serving on the board. Larry Lindsay, board chairman, has been on the board for 20 years. The other two members, John Bristow and Kent Goodyear, have been appointed within the last six months to fill terms resigned by LeRoy Gardner and Morrow County Judge Louis Carlson.

Kent Goodyear

Goodyear, 39, Heppner, is on the ballot for Position No. 3, a two-year term. Pete Richards, 53, Irrigon, is running against him.

Goodyear is a marketing manager for Kinzua Corp. He has lived in Heppner for 15 years. He and his wife Carol have two children, ages four and 10 years. He graduated from Grant High School in Portland and from Lewis and Clark College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science with a minor in philosophy.

Goodyear is president of the Blue Mt. College Scholarship and Development board, a member of the Morrow County Planning Commission, a member of the Blue Mt. Community College Budget Committee, and a board member of the Job Training Partnership Act Business Advisory Council.

He has no previous political experience.

He is a past member of the Heppner Economic Development Corporation and the Western Wood Products Assoc. Market Services Select Subcommittee. He received the Pacific Northwest Marketing Firm of the Year award in 1985 for Kinzua Corp. The award was presented by the Portland Chamber of Commerce and the World Forestry Center.

"The Port of Morrow plays a major role in the future of the entire county," Goodyear said. "It not only has a great industrial land base for future development, but is also the economic development agency for the entire county. I would like to see the port actively involved in helping each community in the county to achieve its economic development goals," he said.

"In my position as marketing manager for Kinzua Corp., I am responsible for the sales of wood products in domestic and export markets," Goodyear continued. "This includes sales forecasts, budgeting, inventory control and sales. I can utilize my business and community service background to bring an experienced viewpoint to the Port of Morrow commission," he contends.

Pete Richards

Richards is a retired firefighter at the Umatilla Army Depot. He and his wife Lois have four grown children. He is a member of the Umatilla Basin Technical Group and president of the Eastern Oregon Fly Fishing Club. He is vice chairman of Westland Irrigation District and the Morrow County Fair Board. He is a member of the Morrow County Extension Advisory Board. He has been a member of the legislative committee for the Oregon Fairs Assoc.

Richards, said that because he "retired one year ago, I feel that I have time to dedicate to promoting increased business development in the county. I have been fortunate," he said, "to have three of four children employed in this area. I would like to have my grandchildren find work locally also if they desire."

"I filed for Judge Carlson's position," he continued, "because I knew that he spent almost enough time to be considered half-time employed. I feel that being retired, I could spend more time attending important meetings than my employed opponent," he concluded.

Incumbent John Bristow, 54, Ione, is opposed by Bruce Nicholes, 64, Boardman, for the four-year Position No. 4.

John Bristow

Bristow has been a retail grocer in Ione for eight years. He served 23 years in the U.S. Air Force as a pilot and test flight officer. He held various command and staff positions in logistics and maintenance/engineering fields. He graduated from Oregon State University with a bachelor of science degree in business administration and from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, senior level. He has two grown children.

He is chairman of the Morrow County Planning Commission and has served as chairman of the Ione economic development organization (ICABO). He has been an active supporter of school programs and budgets.

Bristow believes the port must be instrumental in economic growth for the entire county.

"Morrow County should be divided into Port Districts with each district electing a commissioner so as to insure equal representation," he said. "Women of Morrow County represent a valuable resource and should be encouraged to serve in port and county positions."

"Port personnel," he said, "should become involved with the major issues of Morrow County to produce inputs that will enhance the overall business environment. They must continue to be progressive and persistant in pursuit of new industry.

"The Port should not operate in a vacuum, but should expand communications with county agencies," Bristow said.

Bruce Nicholes

Nicholes is self-employed as a realtor with Mt. Valley Land Co. He and his wife Anita have seven grown children.

He is a member of the Boardman Chamber of Commerce economic development committee, the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Assn., the American Bonanza Society, Western Bonanza Society, Ducks Unlimited, National Wildlife Assn., National Rifle Assn., Pacific Trapshooting Assn., and the American Trapshooting Assn. He is an honor lifetime member of both the Elks Lodge and the Oregon Pilots Association.

He has no previous political experience.

Nicholes is running for commissioner, he said, "because I have an active interest in the economic development of Morrow County. The Port of Morrow must be the catalyst for economic development in our area through the use of financial packaging, land development, agency coordination, and general promotional activities," he continued. "We have many assets available to us within the Port that most other areas simply cannot boast of and we must market those assets vigorously," he said.

"My background in land development and marketing make me qualified to help in the economic development of our county. I have the knowledge and the determination and maybe more importantly, the time necessary to properly fulfill the commitment one must make in being more than a name on a plate that sits before a commissioner," he said.

Larry Lindsay

Incumbent Larry Lindsay, 50, Lexington, is opposed by Richard Cappoto for Position No. 5. Cappoto did not respond to the newspaper's questionnaire.

Lindsay, current president of the port commission, has served on the board for almost 20 years. He is on the ballot for another four-year term.

A lifetime resident of Lexington, he farms and operates a custom cattle feedlot. He and his wife Corrine have seven children, four still in Morrow County schools.

He is a graduate of the University of Portland in business administration. He attended Georgetown University Law Center and served as accounting and finance officer in the U.S. Air Force.

Lindsay is a past director of Morrow County Grain Growers (for 19 years), a past director for the North Pacific Grain Growers, and a past president of the Morrow County Livestock Growers.

"For 20 years I have participated in the decisions that created the Port of Morrow to be one of the outstanding port districts in Oregon.

"Morrow county enjoys a relatively low tax rate because of the high-value investment attracted to our area through port activities. Since 1960, county valuation has been multiplied by 62 times.

"A substantial part of county employment is derived from industries based in the port's food processing park.

"The Port of Morrow is now prepared to become the transportation hub of the Pacific Northwest with an unequaled blend of assets: trans-continental highway and railroad, airport potential, and magnificent container loading facilities on the Columbia-Snake river system. The structure is now in place to expand our marketing efforts.

"I hope to use my experience and knowledge of port history to continue the orderly development of Morrow County for the benefit of all taxpayers, workers, and businesses," he said. "Their individual support and county-wide cooperation, have made the Port of Morrow a true success story," he concluded.

Two vie for Lexington school board position

Two positions are open on the Morrow County School Board. Board Vice-Chairman Jerry McElligott is running unopposed. Position No. 3, a four-year term, which he currently holds. He has been a board member for seven years.

McElligott, 56, is an Ione area farmer. He has lived in the area continuously since 1973. He and his wife Maryan have six grown children and two currently enrolled in Morrow County Schools. He has a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Portland and completed cadet training as a pilot in the U.S. Air Force in which he served for 20 years. He is a member of the Wheat League, the Morrow County Grazing Assoc., the American Legion, and St. Williams Catholic Church.

Randy Hughes

Two candidates appear on the ballot for Position No. 4., Marcia Kemp, 36, and Randy Hughes, 34, both of Lexington.

Hughes, is the incumbent in the four-year position. The self-employed farmer is a lifetime resident of the area. He and his wife, Joyce, have two school-age children. He attended Blue Mt. Community College, majoring in business and agriculture.

He said school districts should not be experimenting in academics but stay with the basics to maintain quality education. "Schools should reflect the beliefs and ideas of our local community," he continued. "Spending for our schools should be done conservatively, but still maintain quality." "We can't properly maintain our school buildings because we don't have the money," he said.

Kemp, a news correspondent for the Agri-Times, has lived in the area for 13 years. She is a graduate of Oregon State University with a bachelor of science degree in journalism. She and her husband Gary have two school-age daughters. She has worked as a volunteer in Project KidSafe, a Morrow County project to prevent child abuse and neglect. She is a member of the Heppner Parents' Club, an associate director for the Soil and Water Conservation District, and publicity director for the Morrow County Wheat Growers League. She has been an occasional volunteer aide at Heppner Elementary School and is an assistant leader for a second-grade Bluebird group. She has served one term as a member of the Heppner-Lexington school advisory committee.

Kemp says that her desire to serve on the school board stemps from the recent school levy failures and misinformation people have about school operations. "I feel we need to improve our communications between citizens, school employees, administration, and board members. We need to work together to provide the best possible educational programs we can afford for our children," she said.

Kemp feels her public relations background will enable her to bridge any gaps which might exist between the community and school administration. "I hope to do a better job of informing the public about the schools year around, and not just at budget election time," she concluded, "because schools are a vital element of our lives and community."

Marcia Kemp

Advisory candidates unopposed

Two candidates are running unopposed for two positions on local advisory boards. Charlie Anderson, Heppner, is seeking Position No. 1, a three-year term, on the Heppner-Lexington advisory committee. Julie Nelson, Lexington, is seeking Position No. 4, a three-year term, on the Ione-Lexington advisory committee.

Anderson, 35, and his wife Marcia have two children ages three and eight. A farmer and lifetime resident of the area, Anderson has not held office before. He has a Bachelor of Science in Business from Oregon State University and is a Heppner High School graduate. He has been on the board of directors for Morrow County Grain Growers, is a member of the Wheat League and All Saints Episcopal Church. He has also helped with the Cub Scout pack.

Nelson, 41, has lived in the area for 17 years. She and her husband Ken have two school-age children. A homemaker, she graduated from Kennewick, Washington, High School and attended classes at Blue Mt. Community College. She is a member of Cardinal Club and has served one three-year term on the school advisory committee.

No one has filed for election to position No. 2 or position No. 7 on the Heppner-Lexington school advisory committee. A write-in candidate may be elected to the positions, Morrow County School Supt. Doyle McCaslin said, but he/she must live with in the boundary for that position.

Two people are running write-in campaigns for the advisory committee. Kay Proctor meets qualifications for Position No. 2 and Monte Evans meets qualifications for Position No. 7, Heppner Elementary school principal Don Cole said.

Five on park district ballot

Five people are running unopposed for five four-year positions on the Willow Creek Park District Board.

Ken Turner, incumbent chairman of the park board was appointed by the county court to serve on the board when it was formed one year ago. He is the only candidate on the ballot for Position No. 2. Turner, 51, is a farmer and lifetime resident of the area. He and his wife Jean Ann have four grown daughters. He received a Bachelor of Science degree from Oregon State University. He is a member of the Heppner Elks and of St. Patrick's Catholic Church. He served 14 years on the conservation district board.

Running for the two at-large positions, Pat Sweeney and Dave Sykes, both of Heppner, are listed on the March 31 ballot.

Sweeney, 35, is a funeral director. He and his wife Trisha have four school-age children. Sweeney is a graduate of Heppner High School and San Francisco College of Mortuary Science. He has lived in Heppner since 1964 and is a member of St. Patrick's Catholic Church and Pastoral Council and of the B.P.O.E. No. 358. He has no previous service in public office.

Sykes, 36, is a publisher. He and his wife April have four children ages four, five, seven and nine. He has lived in Heppner for seven years. Sykes graduated from Reedsport High School and attended the University of Oregon. He is president of the Heppner Chamber of Commerce. He has no dent of the Heppner Lions Club and the merchant's committee. He was co-chairman of this year's St. Patrick's Weekend Celebration, and previous service in public office.

Judy Rea, 57, Ione, is on the ballot for Position No. 1. She has lived in the Ione-Lexington area since 1947 and is a graduate of Ione High School. She and her husband Keith, have four children, two in Ione schools. The housewife is a member of the Ione United Church of Christ, the Ione Community Agri-Business Organization, Cardinal Club, and Willows Grange. She has no previous experience in public office.

John Edwards, is a candidate for Position No. 3.

Two county levies up for approval

Morrow County's one-year operating levy is on the ballot as two separate measures, one for county health care, the other to balance the budget for the rest of the county's operations.

The county has prepared booklets with a brief explanation of the budget. Handed out at last week's town hall meetings, copies of the booklet are available at local markets and at the Courthouse.

The county health care levy is $428,477, an amount which will be divided among the county's medical care entities as follows: $97,850 to the North Morrow Medical Clinic for emergency services and out patient care; $90,323 to the North Morrow Ambulance with $9,000 designated to go to Irrigon for Umatilla ambulance service, and $240,304 to Pioneer Memorial Hospital for nursing home, in-patient care, and emergency services.

The total levy for the balance of county operations is $2,710,611. It will be divided as follows: $15,591 to the fair and rodeo for operation of the fair, the rodeo, the horse show, and the queen and her court; $73,382 to the road districts of Heppner, Ione, Lexington, Boardman and Irrigon cities; $16,847 to the county school fund; $1,669,659 to the county road fund to maintain county roads and bridges; and $1,4898,452 to the county general fund for administration in the county court, for accounting, the assessor's office, the treasurer and tax collector, the clerk, recording and elections, the veterans' officer, the district attorney, juvenile director, sheriff, public health nurse, county planner, surveyor, justice court, mental health, parks, museum, extension service, predatory animal control, weed control, soil erosion, watermaster, and soil and water conservation.

Replacement of road department equipment is the major item in capital expenditures. Much of the equipment is falling apart and historically, the budget committee has cut replacement of the equipment from the budget when short on money.

County employee (except the road department) salary increases are based on the negotiated contract increases for the sheriff's department. Road Dept. employees and elected officials (except the County Court) salaries were increased based on negotiated union contract amounts. The budget committee decided that the county judge's salary should remain the same as last year. They also determined that the county commissioner positions were not funded adequately according to the responsibility and amount of time the job required. Commissioners this year received half the salary of other elected officials. The budget committee said commissioners should receive half the judge's salary because the judge's position requires a half-time commissioner and a half-time juvenile court judge. The change will mean an additional $2,772 annually per commissioner. They have been paid $13,056 each year and are projected to receive $15,828.

The county's total budget—a balance sheet of revenues and expenses—is down $501,188 from last year. The tax rate increase (up 48¢ from last year's $3.86) reflects an expected decrease in the county's total assessed value for the coming year.

A previously-approved three-year Lifeguard serial levy will require collecting $28,143 tax dollars next year. Next year is the final year of the serial levy.

Heppner board positions on ballot

Heppner voters will have special ballots for the cemetery, water control, and rural fire protection districts.

One candidate, Beverly Gunderson is running for the four-year term on the cemetery district board.

Three candidates, Archie Ball, Albert Osmin, and Jim VanWinkle have filed for three separate four-year terms on the water control district board.

Two candidates, Don Bennett and Monte Evans are on the Heppner Rural Fire Protection District ballot. Each is running for a four-year term.