

## Candidate's Forum

The ballots for the March 13 mail-in election have been sent to Morrow County voters. Contested races to be decided include the Morrow County School District directors for Zone 2 and Zone 6; Morrow County Health District Position 3; and the Ione Lexington Advisory Committee Position 2.

**In the Morrow County School District Director race Zone 2,** John Renfro, Lexington, and Michelle Gale, Irrigon, will go up against incumbent Dwayne Carroll, Irrigon.

**Dwayne Carroll** (No photo available)

Dwayne Carroll, 62, lives in the Irrigon area. Carroll and his wife, Gerry, have two grown children, Jeanne Dabulskis and Larry Carroll.

Carroll, who came to Morrow County in 1960, graduated from high school in Wasco. He served in the U.S. Air Force as an E5 with the U.S. Air Defense Command from 1956-60.

Carroll is a self-employed farmer and has been owner of a small trucking firm since 1961.

Carroll is a member of the Oregon Wheat League, the Oregon Trucking Association, the American Trucking Association, the National Federation of Independent Businessmen and the Columbia Basin Grain Growers Association.

He has been a member of the Morrow County School Board since 1986 and served two terms as board chair.

As a long-time school board member, Carroll commented on the time required to fulfill the duties of the office. "This particular office requires a huge allocation of personal time," said Carroll. "Willingness to dedicate that time is paramount."

**Why would a voter select you over your opponent?:** "A firm commitment to education proven by time already serving the needs of Morrow County."

**If elected, what is the biggest challenge facing you?:** "The largest issue of immediate concern is the bond levy necessary to allow the district to deal with increasing crowding and class size."

**What major project would you like to see accomplished?:** "The addition of classrooms to address the increased enrollment and long-term maintenance needs of present facilities. Without a levy, maintenance needs and student education must compete for the same dollar."

**Michelle Gale** (No photo or information available)



**John Renfro**

John Renfro, 64, resides in Lexington. He and his wife, Pamela, have a grown daughter.

Renfro, who came to Morrow County in 1994, graduated from high school in Clatskanie. He graduated from Portland State University with bachelor and master of science degrees. He served with the U.S. Army with the Army Security Agency in Germany for three years.

Renfro was employed with the Oregon State Police for 2-1/2 years, with the Clackamas Juvenile Court for eight years and with the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office for 22 years.

Renfro was a member of the Oregon City School Board for two years and served on the Lexington City Council and as

Lexington mayor. He was Clackamas County Sheriff for four years.

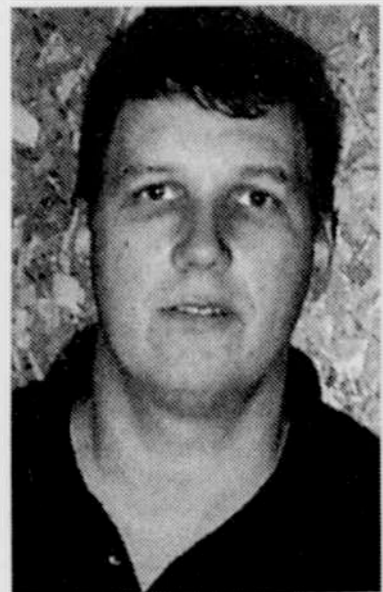
Renfro has experience teaching part-time, in contract negotiations, with personnel in the public sector and has had local budget experience.

**Why would a voter select you over your opponent?:** "Broader knowledge of the job duties, local budget law, public personnel rules, open meeting laws, more awareness of the needs and wishes of students, parents, staff and public, ample time to devote to the job."

**If elected, what is the biggest challenge facing you?:** "To provide leadership to return confidence and support of the public to the school board."

**What major project would you like to see accomplished? What is your first priority?:** "To encourage support and cooperation from the public to improve staff, curriculum and program levels."

**In the Morrow County School District Director Position Zone 6,** John Kilkenny, Heppner, opposes incumbent Barney Lindsay, Lexington.



**John Kilkenny**

John Kilkenny, 43, lives in the Heppner area. He and his wife Diane, have three children 16, 13 and 11.

Kilkenny has lived in Morrow County since 1957. He graduated from Heppner High School and received a degree in business from the University of Oregon.

Kilkenny has operated the Kilkenny Ranch for 20 years.

Kilkenny is a member of the Catholic Church. He served as Morrow County Rodeo director for six years, on the Heppner High School Site Council for two years and is a current member of the Heppner-Lexington Advisory Council. He was a director of the Morrow County Grain Growers for nine years and a member of the Morrow County ASCS Committee for six years.

"Firstly, I have three children in school and know first-hand what takes place every day. Secondly, I have 20 years of business experience and understand the financial obligations involved with running the district as a business," said Kilkenny.

**Why would a voter select you over your opponent?:** "I hope that I would be more able to convince the majority of the board to think independently and to not look for the easiest solution to problems. The school board must always put needs of the children ahead of everything else."

**What major project would you like to see accomplished? What is your first priority?:** "To have a school board that is open and accessible to all members of the county. When people come forward to speak they will be welcome and listened to. Decisions will not automatically be made just because they were recommended by the administration. Administrators will look at all possible options. When decisions are made, the financial costs will be fully and accurately reported to the public. When decisions are made, they will be made at meetings, not before the meeting is started."

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**Barney Lindsay**

Barney Lindsay, 30, lives in the Lexington area. He and his wife, Kimberly have two children, Kaelyn, three and Alex, one.

Lindsay, who was born and raised in Morrow County, is a fourth generation county farmer. Lindsay graduated from Heppner High School, Blue Mountain Community College and the University of Idaho at Moscow. He has a bachelor of science degree in agricultural education from UI and an associate degree in general studies from BMCC.

He is a farmer on the Lindsay Ranch and has been a teacher with the Morrow County School District and the Hermiston School District.

Lindsay is a member of the St. Patrick's Catholic Church where he serves as a lector, a member of the parish council and a member and former chairman of the Holy Name Society. He is also a member of the Elks Club, the Knights of Columbus and the University of Idaho Alumni Association. He was a member of the Heppner High School Agricultural Education Advisory Board from 1993-94, an assistant football coach for Hermiston High School and an assistant track coach for Heppner Junior High School from 1996-97.

Lindsay has been a member of the Morrow County School Board and the Morrow County Soil and Water Conservation District Board since 1997 and the Morrow County Grain Growers Board member and secretary since 1998.

**Why would a voter select you over your opponent?:** "I have been a student, a teacher, a coach and a board member for the Morrow County School District. I have a diverse background in education and I understand the issues facing our schools in Morrow County."

**If elected what is the biggest challenge facing you?:** "Funding public education K-12. A stable funding source for public education is critical to ensuring success for our students."

**What major project would you like to see accomplished? What is your first priority?:** "My first priority is ensuring quality education is offered to all our students. Students in every community should have equal access to course offerings and scheduling. The major project which I would like to see accomplished is restoring programs that were eliminated or adding course offerings through distance education."

**Three people are vying for position 3 on the Morrow County Health District board,** Susan Payne, Irrigon, and John Prag and Marja Sayles, both Boardman.

**Susan Payne** (No photo or information available)

**John Prag** (No photo available) John Prag, 66, lives in Boardman with his wife, Lynn. Prag has three children, 40, 36 and 20.

Prag, who came to Morrow County in 1969, graduated from Columbia Prep and attended the University of Oregon, majoring in business. Prag was an Oregon Air National Guard captain, medical services officer.

Prag has been a self employed rancher and realtor for 35 years.

He is a member of the Boardman Chamber of

Commerce and the Greater Oregon Development Corporation. He has been a chair of the Boardman Planning Commission, a member and chair of the Morrow County School Budget Committee and a member and chair of the Morrow County Budget Committee. He is a long-time businessman and has had six years' experience with the Air Force Medical Service and supply officer.

**Why would a voter select you over your opponent?:** "Fiscally responsible 30-plus year resident."

**If elected what is the biggest challenge facing you?:** "Maintaining financial viability of the medical district."

**What major project would you like to see accomplished? What is your first priority?:** "Assuring financial security of the Irrigon, Boardman and Heppner medical clinics and ambulance services."

**Marja Sayles** (No photo available)

Marja Sales, 48, lives in Boardman. She and her husband, Greg, have two children, Tina, 28, and Garth, 25. She came to Morrow County in 1987.

Sayles graduated from Holy Names Academy and received an associate degree from Bellevue Community College.

Sayles has been employed as a secretary with Morrow County Behavioral Health Services for over 12 years.

She is a member of Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Boardman and a member of the Columbia River EMT Association of which she has been secretary-treasurer the last three years.

**Why would a voter select you over your opponent?:** "As a citizen and service provider in Morrow County I am interested in the continuation of such services and the fiscal health of the Morrow County Health District."

Two Ione residents, Darrin Padberg and Gregg A. Rietmann are up for one spot on the Ione-Lexington Advisory Board.



**Darrin Padberg**

Darrin Padberg, 35, has lived in Morrow County his entire life. He graduated from Ione High School and attended Blue Mountain Community College, Mt. Hood Community College and Oregon State University. He has one son, 2-1/2.

Padberg has been a farmer with D&M Padberg for 15 years.

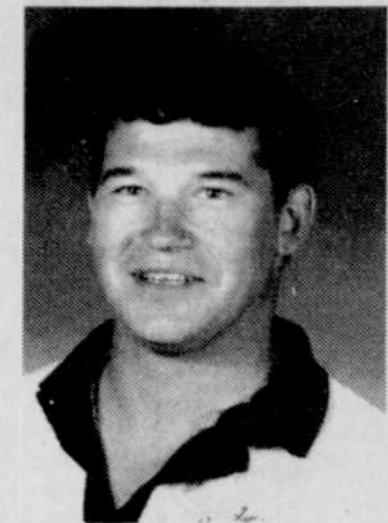
He has been a member of the Elks Club for 14 years, the Ione Community Agri-Business Organization for 15 years, the Ione Rural Fire District for one year and a member of the Jordan Elevator Board of Directors for five years.

"Over the years I have always been a school supporter, whether athletic or academic. I have had good relationships with the administrators, faculty and students that I think gives me a good feel for the school system."

**If elected what is the biggest challenge facing you?:** "With continuing budget restraints, we need to explore possibilities of how to maximize and utilize a high quality of education for all students, considering current teacher loss and limited space. Also, a large challenge for all of south Morrow County is to keep our schools alive and thriving."

**What major project would you like to see accomplished. What is your first priority?:** "I am working with Yes for Kids to help the

bond levy pass, making it possible to continue to support the construction of a new elementary building and practice gym in Ione. I am very receptive and willing to listen and discuss input from concerned citizens."



**Gregg A. Rietmann**

Gregg A. Rietmann, 37, and his wife, Cheryl, have two children, Tanner, seven, and Evan, six. Rietmann has lived in Morrow County since 1963 and graduated from Ione High School. He received a bachelor of arts degree in business administration from Pacific University.

Rietmann has been owner of 2 R Farms, Inc., since 1990.

He is a member of the Ione United Church of Christ, the Ione Amphitheater and Park Committee and the Oregon Wheat Growers League.

Rietmann has had 10 years experience as the Ione High School Varsity football coach and eight years experience as the Ione High School JV basketball coach.

## Rick Osmin new manager of Hermiston New Holland Ford



**Rick Osmin (left), Meloney Calhoun and Mike Hastings**

Rick Osmin, formerly of Heppner, was hired as the new manager at the Hermiston New Holland Ford as of February 1.

"I'm looking forward to building the business here and providing excellent customer service," said Osmin. "I invite anyone to stop by for a visit or call me with any questions or needs that you have. I'm excited about being back in this area and closer to home."

Osmin graduated from Heppner High School in 1991 and attended Eastern Oregon University from 1991-94. After college he moved to Portland and was employed as a claims adjuster for 3-1/2 years. At that point, he realized that he missed Eastern Oregon and moved back to LaGrande, where he began a sales position with LaGrande New Holland. He had been employed there for the last three years, until he was hired to take over management of the Hermiston New Holland February 1. Doug Fluharty, formerly owner of just the Quincy, Washington, New Holland Ford, purchased the Pasco, Othello and Hermiston New Holland stores last September.

"In January I was presented the opportunity to be the new store manager. It was a good career move for me as well as an opportunity to get closer to home," said Osmin. "I've always known that this store could do better and I've always daydreamed of being here and running this store. I never imagined that after only three years I would be running this store."

As new manager, Osmin says that he and the new owner intend to make the Hermiston

## Smith supports restoring senior and disabled programs

State Representative Greg Smith (R-Heppner) expressed support recently for restoring funding for senior and disabled programs. The programs are slated for cuts in Governor John Kitzhaber's budget.

"These programs provide vital services to some of the most vulnerable Oregonians," Smith said. "I am pledging to do everything I can to make sure these programs get the funding they need."

Smith is joining his colleagues in the House Republican Caucus and House Speaker Mark Simmons (R-Elgin), who announced his intention to fight for senior and disabled funding. Simmons also announced the creation of a bipartisan Speaker's Task Force on Funding for Senior and Disabled Services, which will be holding a series of hearings across Oregon to examine the impact of the Governor's proposed cuts.

"I am disappointed that the Governor has chosen to have seniors and the disabled out of his budget," Smith said. "My House Republican colleagues and I are dedicated to restoring those cuts."

Smith added that House Republicans will also be introducing legislation for prescription drug reform, tax credits for long term care and research to find treatments for age-related diseases.

"We can't turn our backs on our seniors," Smith said. "They have done so much for Oregon, it's time we stood up for them."

## Error discovered in Boardman ballots

An error has been discovered in the March 13 write-in ballots for Boardman, according to the Morrow County Clerk's office.

The ballots have been corrected and remailed to Boardman voters.

**NEWS DEADLINE  
5 p.m. Monday**