

Continuation of school board forum questionnaire

Debbie Radie did not receive her candidate's forum questionnaire in time to make last week's deadline. The Gazette-Times regrets this delay and wishes to give their readers a chance to read Radie's comments.

Questions asked to the candidates: Q1- Why would a voter select you over your opponent? Q2- If elected, what is the biggest challenge facing you? Q3- What is your position regarding Ione's secession from the Morrow County School District? Q4- How would you deal with budget constraints and what are some solutions you feel would help resolve the budget crisis. Q5- Currently funds are distributed to each school by the amount they bring in. Is this fair and equitable, or should there be a different form of distribution? Q6- What is your opinion on moving the district office from Lexington to Irrigon?

Pos. 3 candidate:

Debbie Radie, 39, along with husband, Dave and son, Mike, live in Ione. Radie graduated from Falls City High School and attended Merritt Davis College of Business. She has worked as the Operations Manager at Boardman Foods, Inc., since 1990.

Radie and her family moved to Morrow County in 1992. She has been active with the Boardman Community Church and acted as a youth group leader for one year. Radie was a board member of the Boardman Chamber of Commerce and the Boardman Community Development Committee. She was on the Morrow County School Board graduation requirements committee, the Boardman Chamber of Commerce scholarship committee. Currently, Radie has been actively involved with the Cardinal Booster Club, as president; the Ione Site Council, member; and City of Ione Budget Committee. She is also an Ione school events



photographer and reporter for the Heppner Gazette.

Other experience or qualifications pertinent to the school board position include: parent, human resources training and experience, cash flow and business accounting, purchasing and negotiating skills, creative thinking, budgeting, listening skills.

Q1- "I have experience in dealing with people from different cultures and social status. I know how to get people involved and help them feel connected to the process. I have experience in leadership positions. I know how important it is for others to be heard and their needs taken into account prior to making a final decision. I have experience working within budgets and cost saving ideas for the company that I work for. I am accessible and available to the needs of the communities in Morrow County through email, phone, mail, and personal visits. I travel to both ends of the county daily."

Q2- "To retain our teachers when there is a lack of adequate funding for our schools. Continue to offer our high school students choices in class offerings over and above the state requirements."

Q3- "Ione's community has and is committed to the education of the children in its community. They have proven this in so many ways. Meetings and functions relating to the schools have overwhelming support and participation. The entire Ione community came to the conclusion that it was in their best interest to form their own school district. I feel that this is primarily due to the school board and administration not listening and not responding adequately to the needs of this motivated community within their jurisdiction."

Q4- "Meet with other school board members from throughout the state via v-tel, internet or personal visit and brainstorm with them on solutions. Work with state legislators on allowing a tax within our county to support out schools. Learn everything about the school budget and understand where every dollar comes from and is used on. Find out more and help push through PERS reform."

Q5- "This is a method for the school district to explain how the funds received are spent and to give each school the feeling that they are getting their fair share of the funds. I do feel that there are areas where it may not serve the best interests of all students. School board members and district administration must think about this when making decisions. Parents and teachers from each school should be allowed to meet and give input into how the funds might best be spent. I would look at this as a guide but would want to ensure that programs are maintained throughout the district as much

as possible for all students benefit. There should be some benefit to the schools throughout the county for being apart of the larger school district. These benefits should be explained and offered as necessary to maintain adequate education throughout all school in the district."

Q6- "I feel that that the board made a decision to move the district office to Heppner based on saving money for the district. I was surprised to hear about a decision to move these offices to Irrigon. It appeared from the article in the newspaper that this was a personal issue and was not investigated well enough in regards to cost savings. I would have to have more information about the savings of moving the offices from Lexington to Irrigon to make an informed decision."

Pos. 1 candidate:

John Rietmann lives on a wheat farm south of Ione with his wife Kerry and daughter Brenna who is in sixth grade. His oldest son Nathan is finishing his first year of law school after graduating from Willamette University last spring. His middle son Jeremy is finishing his sophomore year of college at Colorado State University.

Rietmann grew up in Ione and graduated from Ione High School and completed a B.A. degree from Eastern Washington University in Industrial Arts Education. After teaching three years in the Lake Oswego public schools and then trading grain for North Pacific Grain Growers for two years he leased and purchased land south of Ione where the family has lived for the past eighteen years. He has been an active member of the Ione United Church of Christ, Little League Baseball, Ione Lions Club as well as serving on the Morrow County School Board for the past twelve years.

Rietmann's response to the above six questions is as follows:

Morrow County School District's greatest challenge is to maintain the quality educational program that they currently have while the state provides less financial support. The parents, grandparents, and voters of Morrow County have always been great supporters of their children's education. As long as the state of Oregon does not allow some form of local financial control, Morrow County Schools will continue to suffer. The need for local control is why I favor Ione forming its own school district. The community of Ione, through its local foundation;

will be able to target specific funding into the school to provide opportunities the state will not provide through its state school funding formula.

The budget crisis in Morrow County's Schools and the state budget crisis will not be solved with more taxes at the state level. The state of Oregon must provide a base line of funding for local school districts that provides a basic education. Then state spending needs to be reigned in to limit government program growth in all areas and decisions need to be made regarding what are legitimate programs to continue to fund. After this, the state truly needs to develop a rainy day account so that slumps in the economy are cushioned. Local school districts then need the ability to go to the voters for additional property tax money to fund any programs that the local citizen's feel their children need above the basic education funding provided by the state. Morrow County voters will continue to provide an excellent education for their children if they are given control to do so.

Decisions made by the Morrow County School Board need to be driven by what is best for all the children they serve. The state funding formula distributes money by the child. Costs to educate a classroom of children vary greatly from situation to situation. Some discretion needs to be used so that all children receive as great a learning opportunity as possible. Other decisions the school district makes that are not classroom related need to be made with cost effectiveness as the number one priority.

Stability is the reason I have filed for re-election, as many members of the board are leaving and several of the administrators are changing or have changed in the last couple of years. Experience is the greatest asset I would bring to a new board.

Retirement party for Les Payne Saturday

A retirement party in celebration of Les Payne's 35 years of teaching will be held Saturday, May 17. A "Roast and Toast-hors d'oeuvres and no host bar" will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the Heppner Elks Lodge, Main St., Heppner.

For more information you can contact Jake, Carter and Ali at (509) 782-2135; Cohen at (541) 922-3294; or e-mail Steph at sball@cashmere.wednet.edu or Kathy at paynek@umatilla.k12.or.us.

WCCC ladies held tournament

The Willow Creek Country Club ladies held their annual flag tournament, Tuesday, May 6.

Betty Carlson received first place; Pat Edmundson received second; and Shari Stahl and Lynnea Sargent tied for third. Joyce Dinkins was the first to plant and Edmundson received an In the Hole on 9.

Ione Booster Club announces 4th of July t-shirt design winner

Ione Cardinal Booster Club met Monday, May 5, at the high school library. Ten members were present. The club continues to look for a solution to the sports equipment storage problem. Charity McElligott shared prices she had researched for various-sized cement floors. It was agreed to postpone building anything at this time, but to continue researching options.

Jeri McElligott will resend the Articles of Incorporation with a physical address included. She will also re-work the Cardinal Scholarship application form, eliminating the financial need section.

It was reported the tennis court lights are up, but not working. Club members agreed the area west of the tennis courts to the creek needed to be paved, along with the area south of the shop. It was recommended the club ask the Ione Advisory Board to suggest those areas when the school construction is completed. The club will also ask the board to insure the club's gym improvements are maintained.

A design by Billy Ross of the Class of 2004 won the 4th of July t-shirt design contest. The club received many worthy entrants, and will locate a place to display them over the July 4th holiday. Club members voted to buy treats for the classes who participated in the competition.

The club will be selling Cardinal visors, in black or white, for \$10 each. The visors are available at Sunflower Junction. Stadium seats are being ordered and will soon be available. The club will provide ice cream treats for students' lunches on the last day of school, provide condiments for the Watershed Field Day hamburger lunch and will purchase cakes honoring retiring teachers Marlene Pointer and Betty Rietmann for the elementary program. Drinks and snacks will be furnished for district and state track and tennis.

There will be a grant writing class for Morrow and Baker counties on Thursday, May 22 at the Port of Morrow at 10 a.m. Anyone needing more information should contact Betty Gray.

There will be two parent openings on the Ione Site Council next fall. The two year terms begin October 1. Anyone who is interested is asked to contact Debbie Radie or Jeri McElligott.

Ione will host a boys' summer league tournament June 14-15. Eight teams will be competing.

The next meeting of the Cardinal Booster Club will be Monday, June 2 at 7 p.m.

Mustangs sweep Tigers

continued from page 2

Donald Adams, Elguezabal (H). 3B- Kory Paullus (H). HR- Gates (H).

Game Two
Heppner 230 010 5-11 14 6
Stanfield 000 022 0-4 3 4

Brad Adams and Gates; Michael Sobotta, Sam Taylor (3), Josh Austin (7) and Tyler Gabriel. W- B. Adams. L- Sobotta. 2B- B. Adams 2, Luke Murray, Gates, Josh Gutierrez (H). 3B- none. HR- none.

Chamber Chatter

By Claudia Hughes, Chamber Executive Director

Once-upon-a-time Heppner was wild and woolly and one reserved soul wrote the following: "I am alone; the people I board with have gone to a dance. There is an awful wicked class of people here, a low grade of society where the girls swear and drink. Mr. S. is very wicked himself." (E.L.M. March 17, 1904.) The letter went on to talk about timber claims, surviving winters with 3-10 feet of snow 12 miles out of Heppner, his garden, and people going "clear through the mountain with a mining claim". People got together for ice cream socials and special events like Memorial Day and the Fourth of July. It was about community and diversity.

Once-upon-a-time in the 1950's Heppner had car dealerships, three gas stations, J.C. Penny, variety store, cleaners, creamery, women's clothing, two motels and a hotel, and the list goes on. Ranches had many employees; families had one vehicle, which Dad took to work. Shopping was done locally except for maybe one or two City trips a year. There were barn dances, rodeos, picnics, parades, and it was about community and diversity.

Today, Heppner is still changing and the Chamber and other entities are working hard to bring people and jobs to try to grow business. Why have we grown smaller? There are about as many answers as there are people on the street. "An epidemic of regulations;" "global shopping;" "a more mobile society;" "less people producing products and more government jobs;" "lawsuits putting more restrictions on doing business;" "prices of commodities;" "technology revolution;" "the school situation;" and the list goes on. Local, State, Federal... everybody blames somebody and nobody solves the problem even though anybody can come up with a new law or process to implement for a band-aid solution.

So, in spite of looking at more and more change, what comes around goes around. Heppner is still about community and diversity. We are, after 100 years, a community of survivors, working together, accepting change, making changes, and holding fundraisers to support our schools, to help those less fortunate, to grow productive organizations and to create a memorial to flood victims 100 years ago. We're taking care of our hometown.

And we're still having picnics, and pie auctions, and parades, and rodeos, and celebrations, and inviting others to enjoy recreation when they visit, because no matter what, it's a beautiful world. If we can open our eyes to the truly important things, which we see, feel, and touch and remember to laugh with those around us, then everything will be okay. Heppner will go on and on and on for generations. Someone else will say "once-upon-a-time"....and hopefully, won't describe us as a wicked class of people. E.L.M. must have had an attitude.

Thought for the week: "Be careful what you put in writing, it may come back to haunt you."

Marriage Licenses
May 9: Norberto Garcilazo, 22, Hermiston and Maria de la Luz Armenta, 22, Hermiston. James Raymond King, 48, Ione and Shawn Elizabeth Wilson, 41, Lexington.

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