

~ Letters to the Editor ~

The Heppner Gazette Times will print all letters to the Editor with the following criteria met: letters submitted to the newspaper will need to have the name of the sender along with a legible signature. We are also requesting that you provide your address and a phone number where you can be reached. The address and phone number will only be used for verification and will not be printed in the newspaper. Letters may not be libelous. The GT reserves the right to edit. The GT is not responsible for accuracy of statements made in letters. Any letters expressing thanks will be placed in the classifieds under "Card of Thanks" at a cost of \$10.

Leann Rea would be a good fit

To the editor:

Morrow County is blessed with quality people who have stepped up to the plate to serve in critical political positions. No matter how good the previous incumbent might be, "change" is always good, maybe necessary, to avoid locked in perceptions on how government decisions affects the people.

One of those people running for county commissioner is Leann Rea. She is running against Commissioner John Wenholz whose third term will expire in 2009. John has served admirably for the past 12 years but this writer believes that new faces, new ideas and new attitudes are critical for a vibrant governing body. I personally thank John for his 12 years of service.

Now comes Leann Rea. Not a new comer into the political field. She has cut her teeth in many public service environments, not to say the least of which was the manager/bookkeeper of the West Extension Irrigation District/Stanfield Irrigation District and the Westland District. As you all know, where water is involved, problems need to be solved. In that roll, Leann learned to respond to public needs.

One of the skills needed for a county commissioner is some understanding of Oregon law. Leann hits the mark on this one as she served as a paralegal for a water rights attorney.

Another skill needed is the ability to understand budgets and have some skills in bookkeeping. Leann did serve as a bookkeeper in their irrigated family farm in the Boardman area as well as assisted many area residences in the free preparation and electronic transmission of their federal and state income tax returns.

Leann has served on the Morrow County Planning Commission for 12 years (three as chairman), Morrow County Budget Committee for nine years, Morrow County Health District for three years and other county boards to numerous to mention at this time.

Other community involvements include OSU advisory committee, Oregon Water Resources Congress, Umatilla Water Shed Council, 4-H Club leader and scores of other community participation.

I appreciate Leann offering her time and talents to connect with the needs of the people of Morrow County. She was born and raised in the Ione area, has family in this community so has a great interest not only in the Boardman/Irrigon area but in the Ione/Heppner area as well. She has a great interest in the Port of Morrow, the economic driver in this county.

"Change" is a good thing. New faces, new ideas, new approach to problems and new opportunities are always welcome if given a chance. Thank you John for 12 years of great public service.

Louis Carlson
Morrow County Judge, retired
Heppner

Reelection support for John Wenholz

I would like to voice my support for John Wenholz for reelection for Morrow County commissioner. Johns has been a commissioner for a while now and does much more than simply attend the weekly commission meetings. John serves on the Oregon Transportation Committee and personally wrote the grant that brought the funds for the senior bus and bus barn for Boardman. John's position as chairman of the CSEPP governing board gives Morrow County a strong voice in the decommissioning of the Umatilla Chemical Weapons Depot.

While John Wenholz has been a county commissioner, Morrow County's central government operations have run smoothly. John deserves to be reelected bases solely on the merits of his past performance. I could go on about how John is a decorated veteran, or talk about any one of his other personal accomplishments. The one area that John excels at is his willingness to listen. I have stopped in at his business in Irrigon on several occasions, to find him on the phone explaining his position or county policy to someone. It is important to have access to elected officials.

Please join me in supporting John Wenholz for reelection.

Don Russell
Boardman

Leann Rea for MC commissioner

To the editor:

This letter is in support of Leann Rea for Morrow County Commissioner. We are friends with both Leann and John Wenholz, and feel she would make the better commissioner. Her background makes her the ideal citizen for this position. She currently volunteers as the coordinator for District 14 for the AARP Tax-Aide Program which involves five counties.

Her past experiences have been the bookkeeper/manager for West Extension, Stanfield and Westland Irrigation Districts; an engineer's assistant for a large engineering firm; paralegal for a water rights attorney; a licensed tax preparer; a farmers' wife/farm bookkeeper and equipment operator; a parts person for a farm equipment dealership; an assistant postal clerk in Lexington and with the last two U. S. Census Processes. Her government experiences include being a Morrow County planning commissioner for 12 1/2 years, the last three as the commission chair; Morrow County Budget Committee for nine years; Morrow County Fair Board; served as chair on the Solid Waste Management Plan Advisory Committee. Other community involvement includes OSU Extension Advisory Board for 15 years, currently as board chair; Umatilla/Morrow County Farm Bureau Board of Directors for nine years; Oregon Water Resources Congress for four years; Umatilla Basin Water Shed Council for six years; served on the lower Umatilla Basin Ground Water Management Area Task Force; and served on the Willow Creek Local Advisory Committee. Please join us in voting for the best candidate.

Ray and Linda Fox
Irrigon

Time is right for a change

Letter to the Editor:

Morrow County government is ready for a change and Leann Rea is the right person for Morrow County commissioner. We need Leann's upbeat can do attitude to help move Morrow County into a more progressive direction.

Under the current Morrow County Commissioner John Wenholz, the county has been moving at a snails pace. Commissioner Wenholz has developed a conservative, not willing to change or even listen attitude. At times, it has had a negative effect and has caused harsh feelings in the communities and lost of economic opportunities.

Leann is willing to work together in a cooperative manner with the communities in Morrow County to achieve mutual outcomes. She will make Morrow County a more livable, strive to attract more family wage businesses, encourage the growth and development of our current industries and businesses.

She brings a depth of experience in county government as she has served on the county planning commission and budget committee, along with experience on the Morrow County Health Board, Morrow County Fair Board and has served on numerous subcommittees. Her experiences also has stretched beyond the county as she has served on the Oregon Water Resources Congress and Umatilla Basin Water Shed Council and Lower Umatilla Basin Ground Water Management Area task force and others committees to broaden her knowledge.

The time is right for a change; please vote Leann Rea for Morrow County Commissioner.

Marcia Kemp
Lexington

Eating humble pie

To the editor:

So... the Legends ate Humble Pie with a bit of added salt after the evening of Mr. Bill's Traveling Trivia. We placed sixth again.

Maybe next time. And maybe next time, the one hundred players that joined the fun on Saturday will be joined by another sixty or so for an even bigger and closer competition.

The evening truly was enjoyable, and Mr. Bill knew the right thing to say at the end. He noted that he

had just taken some Newport teams through the same trivia questions, and the Heppner teams collectively scored higher. Of course.

And that brings me to the salt on our Humble Pie: the Briniacs did make a comeback, scoring higher than the other fifteen teams. Congrats....

(I will not even mention the fact that the Legends had to play with just five members for almost half the competition - because of unavoidable circumstances - though this surely impacted the outcome.)

We had a great time and hope the evening's proceeds positively impacted the Heppner Day Care.

Doris Brosnan
Heppner

Asking Republicans to vote for Rea

To the editor:

We are writing in support of Leann Rea for county commissioner.

Leann has proven her skills in her roles as chairman of the county planning commission, and as a board member of the Umatilla-Morrow Farm Bureau, as well as various other county wide and local community boards and committees.

I have had the pleasure of working with Leann on the Morrow County budget committee and the Morrow County Health District Board of Directors. Leann has the ability to listen to everyone and their concerns and then to work cooperatively to work out the issues that are presented. Leann is a detail person with excellent accounting and people skills that will make her a valuable asset to county government.

We would encourage everyone to join us in voting for Leann Rea for county commissioner.

If you are a Republican your ballot will show under the heading, Morrow County Commissioner No Candidate Filed.

We would urge you to write in under this heading Leann Rea and pencil in the oval to indicate your vote.

We feel your vote on the commissioner's race is critical in the effort to provide long term support to the local communities and county wide economic development.

Again we would urge everyone to vote for Leann Rea for county commissioner and write her name in if you are Republican.

Larry and Betty Mills
Heppner

Writing in support of Rea

To the editor:

I am writing this letter in support of Leann Rea for Morrow County commissioner. I ask each of you to join me in voting for Leann either by marking her name on the ballot or writing her name in if you are a registered republican.

Leann is familiar with the Morrow County budgeting process as she has served on the budget committee. She continues to stay abreast of proposed changes and state planning law as she sits on the Morrow County Planning Commission. Leann is on the Morrow County Health District Board and is committed to making outstanding health care available to all. In all cases Leann comes to the table prepared to make decisions based on research and knowledge of the facts.

Leann Rea is a Morrow County resident and looks at the county as a unit while understanding that each community has its own needs. I feel confident Leann Rea will listen to the citizen's concerns and ideas research the issues and come back with the best option for all while continuing to maintain a strong structure for Morrow County.

Linda K. LaRue
Ione

Eastern Oregon athletes to compete in Special Olympics Games



Thomas Hamilton and Jillian Smalley -Contributed Photo

Jillian Smalley, daughter of Mark and Kristi Smalley of Hermiston, and granddaughter of John and Pat Edmundson of Heppner, joins Thomas Hamilton, son of Richard and Tammy Fryer of Milton-Freewater, as a member of Team USA. Smalley qualified for Team USA by earning a gold medal in the 500M cross-country skiing race and Hamilton in the 4x1K cross-country relay race.

All gold medal winners from the state Winter Games at Mt. Bachelor were put in a weighted draw for selection to Team USA. Only 12 athletes from Oregon were chosen to represent the United States. Smalley and Hamilton are the only athletes from Eastern Oregon to compete in the Special Olympics Winter World Games next February, at Tamarack Resort, near Boise, ID.

Smalley and Hamilton will travel in December to Copper Mt. Colorado for training to prepare for the World Games.

Stanley's Steakhouse
Mother's Day Specials

Beautifully decorated rooms starting at \$100 per night!

Seating is Limited. Reservations Recommended.

Condon Airport Shuttle Service Available.

Dinner Specials
May 10th & 11th, 2008

Soup or Salad,
Freshly Baked Bread & Creamery Butter,
Seafood Fettuccine (prawns, halibut & clams),
Choice of Alfredo sauce or Marinara sauce
\$34.99 per person

Mother's Day Brunch
May 11, 2008 ~ 10am to 2pm

<p>Choice of: Traditional Eggs Benedict Mushroom, Spinach, Ham, and Cheese Omelet Fresh Vegetable Omelet Two Eggs, any style</p>	<p>With Choice of: Apple Wood Smoked Bacon Grilled King Salmon Honey Baked Ham</p>
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As well as:
Cheese Blintz with Raspberry Compote
And Garlic Roasted Potatoes

Assorted Pastries, Desserts and
Fresh Fruit. Coffee, Tea, Sparkling
Cider or Soft Drink included.

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(541) 384-4624 toll free: (800) 201-6706

Located 2 1/2 hours from Bend, and 2 hours from Portland & Tri Cities.

**Committed to Continue to Serve All
the Citizens of Morrow County!**

**Elect John Wenholz
Morrow County Commissioner**

Paid for by John Wenholz, 290 W. California, Irrigon, OR