

Morrow County sheriff's candidate forum

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Question 4: What is the biggest change you will make to the office of sheriff if you are elected?

Larry Sample: I will be appointing Phil Morris as my undersheriff and I believe reorganization of the sheriff's office is overdue. There needs to be less administration and more deputies on the road to be efficient.

Question 5: Please summarize your reasons for running for the office of Sheriff and plans you might have for the office.

Kenneth Matlack: My work identifies who I am not just what I do. I have been elected and appointed to a variety of positions. I have a very good police background. I want to be serve again because it gives me fulfillment and a sense that together we can make a difference. I will continue to be very active and visible in all Morrow County communities. In addition to what we are already doing,

I support: a drug court, shelter care for at risk youth, a school resource officer and an enhanced partnership with Umatilla CO Search & Rescue.

Larry Sample: I want to restore and regenerate to Morrow County, a sheriff's department that serves ALL, takes pride in their personnel, involves their communities, and manages their resources and office wisely and responsibly.

Question 6: Please briefly comment on any other issues you feel are important to the voters of Morrow County.

Kenneth Matlack: When we re-negotiated the Morrow County Jail contract, it changed everything in Morrow County. From having room to lodge more prisoners, to the Justice Court collecting more fines than any time in the recent past. Accountability and responsibility are doing well in Morrow County. We are expanding commu-

nity service work in several areas of the county. Voters should look at measures 61 & 57 that create mandatory penalties for property crimes and others.

Larry Sample: Having a volunteer search and rescue, and increasing the number of reserve deputies is extremely important. Making sure the deputies have ongoing training in gang enforcement, domestic violence, child abuse, and drug enforcement is imperative. Communication between the sheriff and all sheriff's department personnel, with each other, victims, and communities is another important issue. I will be seeking funds for an animal/code enforcement officer. This will not be a certified police officer position. It will save thousands of dollars not sending someone to the 16 week academy and he/she will not be driving a \$26,000.00, police car which could actually put another deputy on the road.

Lexington City Council: Meet the candidates

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Morrow County at the Lexington Airport, however no council members attended.

Question 2: What do you hope to accomplish if you do win?

Councilor, Position 1:
Ruth Hasket: I will do the job to the best of my ability.

Robert Taylor: I hope to correct all of the problems that I listed earlier [reasons listed for running in Question 1].

Councilor, Position 3:
John Edwards: I

would hope to get more people to come to the meetings and get more people interested in the town.

Charma Marquardt: I want to make sure the fire department stays strong. I want to serve the people with whatever comes up. I have been trying to find a way to serve and this seems like a good way.

Councilor, Position 4:
Marcia Kemp: My goal is to provide Lexington with safe attractive community for people to live comfortably while keeping

the town fiscally sound and prosperous. To accomplish this goal, I would initiate town hall meetings to seek community input and together we would establish common goals and priorities. The community would then be involved in achieving these goals and priorities. Several projects could help the community, establishing a nice park, a vital Neighborhood Watch program, along with a beautification program to make out town an invited community that people will want to live in and visit.

Bank of Eastern Oregon announces opening date of new Enterprise branch

Bank of Eastern Oregon announces its new Enterprise branch facility opened for full service banking on Tuesday, October 14, 2008. The branch is temporarily located at 103 Hwy. 82, Ste. 3. in Enterprise.

Office hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. The bank

also announced the intended construction of a new, permanent facility with an expected Fall 2009 opening date.

Jeff Bailey, President, commented that "Bank of Eastern Oregon is proud to expand into Wallowa County. We have served rural agricultural communities

since 1945, communities just like Enterprise, Wallowa, Joseph, and Lostine. Our history of service, professionalism, and commitment to community are part of our character and we look forward to building very successful relationships locally in the years to come."

For further information, please contact Gary Propheter, EVP & Chief Operations Officer, at Bank of Eastern Oregon at gpropheter@beobank.com.

Heppner GT News Deadline Mondays at 5 p.m.

Student assessment scores to be tied to graduation state-wide by 2012

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conferences, Chamber of Commerce meetings, Site Council meetings, freshmen (class of 1012) parent meetings, newspapers, Parent-Teacher Club meetings, Booster Club meetings, television, town hall meetings, letters to district patrons and open houses.

Also at the meeting, Burrows explained to the board how schools that have increased their reading and math scores from the previous year are still deemed by the state to have not improved. Burrows said that the state's School Report Card (report on each school in the state) is linked to improvement. However, he added, improvement is difficult for schools that already have high scores. Attendance is also a large factor in the determination. For example a school that already has 95.9 percent attendance, would find it difficult to improve much.

Burrows said that while A.C. Houghton Elementary's scores were up in reading and math, the state maintained they had lost ground; Sam Boardman Elementary was also up in reading and math, but according to the state the school stayed the same; Windy River Elementary was up in reading and math, but stayed the same according to the state; Heppner Elementary was up in reading and math, but was determined by the state to have gone down; likewise Irrigon Elementary was up in reading and math, but went down; Heppner High School was down in reading, up in math and went down by state standards; Riverside High School was up in reading, down in math and stayed the same; Irrigon High School was up in reading and math, but went down.

Burrows told the board that the Hermiston School District received an "exceptional" report card from the state with 95.2 percent attendance, 90 percent in reading and 85 percent in math. Morrow County School district, on the other hand, had 95.9 percent attendance, 94 percent in reading and 96 percent in math, but received only a "strong" ranking by the state. Burrows pointed out that if a school receives four points it is deemed "exceptional" and improvement is worth one point.

Burrows said that an overhaul of the state report card system to bring it more in line with the federal "No Child Left Behind" requirements is in the works.

In other business, the board:

-heard a request from elementary students to restore teaching positions at Windy River Elementary and Sam Boardman Elementary. The two schools share counselors and music and PE teachers, since an earlier report indicated that the schools' populations have stayed flat, rather than increasing. The girls said that they would be willing to do fund raising activities to help fund teaching positions. Board Chair Craig Miles told the girls that the board, too, hates to cut teaching positions and would also like to reinstate the teachers full time at both schools. But, added Kuhn, "It is very hard to raise money on a continuing basis for a staff person."

-heard a report from Karlie Cook requesting that the schools become involved in Oregon's 150th birthday celebration.

-approved the second reading and adopted mandatory policy on establishing "Mother Friendly" work places with respect to breast feeding.

-appointed Berto Hernandez, Bill Kuhn and Pat McNamee to the district's licensed bargaining negotiations team.

-adopted a resolution which opposes Ballot Measure 59 which would increase the amount of federal income taxes that could be deducted from an individual taxpayer's Oregon taxable income "from a limit of about \$5,500 to the entire amount of federal taxes paid," according to a district release. "Such a dramatic reduction and instability in state revenues would likely result in a direct reduction in revenues for public education," said the release. "The board of directors strongly opposes the passage of Ballot Measure 59 and its efforts to destabilize and dramatically reduce revenues available for public services." "It's a clever way of reducing income tax by 20 percent," said Burrows.

-adopted a resolution in support of a constitutional amendment which proposes the restoration of the simple majority voting requirement to all May and November elections. Under the current "double majority" requirement, a measure must not only pass, but 50 percent or more of all registered voters must vote in that election with the exception of general elections in even numbered years. If the amendment passes, a simple majority voting requirement will be restored for local bond and levy measures

on all November and May ballots.

-adopted a resolution opposing a measure which would implement state-wide teacher's merit pay. "It is poorly written," said Burrows. "It would be better left to the Oregon Department of Education. He also said that the measure is "against local control."

-adopted a resolution opposing a measure which would prohibit schools from teaching a language other than English for more than two years. Burrows said that MCS D uses the immersion technique and so the measure would not apply to Morrow County schools. However, he added, "I think it's wrong headed." He added that the measure was created by "people that don't know anything about teaching. Why should the voters tell schools how to teach kids?"

"I'm not sure as a board we should be telling voters how to vote," commented Miles.

-heard the following enrollment report: ACH (kindergarten through grade four)-343; Heppner Elementary School (k-six)-183; HHS (seven-12)-234; Irrigon Elementary School (five-six)-115; Irrigon High School (seven-12)-329; Riverside High School (seven-12)-399; SBE (k-three)-312; WRE (four-six)-230; Morrow Education Center-72; plus an additional 23 for a district total of 2240.

-approved the following resignations/retirements: Joy Hearn, WRE ed assistant; Pam Hancock, RHS ed assistant; Forest McKinnis, RHS head girls' basketball coach.

-approved the following employment/promotion: Elvia Ayala, RHS department secretary, replacing Cheryl Costello.

-added a work session to the November 10 board meeting to discuss the superintendent's evaluation process, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

-approved the following extra duty contracts: Alice English, Irrigon Junior/Senior High School DART coordinator; Sarah Miller, IJSHS TAG coordinator; Sophia Morris, Irrigon Junior High assistant volleyball coach; Dennis Peck, Heppner Junior High assistant football coach; Lisa Connell, RHS assistant volleyball coach; Wendy Cannin, HHS annual advisor; Clara Beas, SBE, English language learner site coordinator.

-received the following announcements: end of first nine weeks, October 30; next board meeting, District Office, November 10, 7 p.m.; Veteran's Day holiday, November 11; Oregon School Board Association fall convention, November 13-16.

Sheriff's Report

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office reports handling the following business:

July 15 cont.: -BPD was flagged down by a male subject who would like the highway department advised that when you come off I-84 eastbound you are unable to see traffic on Bombing Range.

-Boardman Ambulance reports that a vehicle lost its tire on highway 730.

-BPD issued a cita-

tion to Lori Lynn Roth, 40, for violation of the speed limit of 85 mph in a 65 mph speed zone.

-BPD received a report from a caller who says a male subject stole a pickup along with the keys, title and registration, as well as the title, keys and registration to two other vehicles. Three guns were also stolen.

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