

COMMISSIONER CANDIDATES

-Continued from PAGE ONE

Leann Rea (Cont.)
 row County Health District Board for several years. *Why do you feel you are better qualified than your opponent to represent the people of Morrow County as commissioner?* I feel that I am better qualified because I have strong connections with all five of the communities in the county, having lived or worked in each of them. I am approachable and enjoy learning new facts about a wide variety of topics. I have the ability to disagree with an individual on one item, but can continue working with them on other issues without any animosity or hard feelings. Finally, I have had the honor to fulfill the duties of the county commissioner for the last three-plus years. *What is the biggest problem facing Morrow County government in the future?* In my opinion, the economic uncertainty with rising costs of employees and their benefits will continue to be a strain for the county. There are many unknowns surrounding health care benefits, and these things may have a negative impact on employee costs. The county also has several county buildings that are in need of major repairs. *What will be your first priority if you are elected as commissioner?* My main priority will be to see that the Road Dept. receives adequate funding to keep the county's roads safe and to continue working to get more of the workers at the Port of Morrow complex to reside in Morrow County. *Do you feel the current court adequately represents Morrow County residents, both north and south?* Yes, I feel the current court adequately represents all of Morrow County. Personally, I was raised and lived in South County for the first 23 years of my life, then I resided at the Finley Butte

farm (half-way between Boardman and Lexington) for about 15 years, and then in the Boardman area for 26 years. I worked as the manager/bookkeeper of West Extension Irrigation District in Irrigon for about six years, thus developing relationships with many of the water users and business people in that community. I now live in Heppner. Judge Tallman resides in Boardman and Commissioner Grieb lives in the Lexington area, which rounds out the court fairly equitably and makes a commissioner available to all county residents. *Do you think the present distribution of tippage fees is equitable, or should the county change the way tippage money is distributed?* I think the way the tippage fees have been distributed has been as fair as the county budget would allow. Tippage monies support Extension, South Neighborhood Center, Irrigon/Boardman Assistance Center, Watermaster, Wildlife Services as well as county services, to name a few. I anticipate there may be changes in the use of tippage fees in our next budget. *Do you think the county should change its charter and/or the number of elected commissioners?* I have mixed feelings on this issue. There are times that it would be nice to have a conversation with one of my fellow commissioners without that conversation being considered a quorum. However, with the county's current budget issues, I do not see any way to justify the additional costs that would be necessary to support more commissioners. Also, until the population of Morrow County is considerable higher than it is now, I think the county can be adequately represented by three totally engaged commissioners.

Kandy Boyd (Cont.)
opponent to represent the people of Morrow County as commissioner? I know I can bring a fresh perspective on the issues facing our county. I believe I can listen to concerns and make fully-informed, wise decisions. I know how to spend within my means and pay attention to needs versus wants. I will not try to bring more taxation to our citizens by adding fees in order to balance the budget. I am a person who would like to give back to my county by being a public official who represents the citizens. I hear many concerns now from people who visit our office, and it has made me want to change how Morrow County treats its citizens. To me, this is about whether Morrow County wants to see a change for the better. *What is the biggest problem facing Morrow County government in the future?* I believe it is the lack of stable and sustainable economic growth. We have got to find ways to bring in growth to our county that is viable. Rising costs in all aspects of daily living add up, and that is what we will always be facing. *What will be your first priority if you are elected as commissioner?* Learning the budget inside and out so I know exactly where we stand; asking departments to spend only if it is a need. There may be spots where the budget may be tightened up a bit. As a current employee, we hear lots of different things regarding the budget. Understanding exactly where we stand will help, to make wiser decisions regarding issues that face the county. I will keep office hours to meet the needs of the citizens and be accessible to them. *Do you feel the current court adequately represents*

Morrow County residents, both north and south? Yes. Some of the services and needs of residents in both ends of the county are different and I believe the current court recognizes that; however, they have not always been proactive in informing citizens of the changes happening to the county or why those needed changes are being done. *Do you think the present distribution of tippage fees is equitable, or should the county change the way tippage money is distributed?* The expenditures that I have seen from the tippage fees look equitable. I believe the budget should always be a consideration for all expenditures. We have to live within our means in order to stay afloat. I am sure that this is a fund that can be looked at every year to see what can and cannot be distributed based on the budgetary limitations. *Do you think the county should change its charter and/or the number of elected commissioners?* We do not currently have a charter. It seems to me that we do not have a budget that would allow for two additional commissioners with salaried positions at this time. We have approximately 12,000 residents and 4,900 electors. The counties that have more than three commissioners are largely-populated counties. If we added those positions, the increase to our budget would be huge, based on the salaries of the current commissioners. As a taxpayer, I don't want to see us go down a bad path with dollars. We would apparently need to have a big overhaul to adjust for that. In the future, it may be a need to visit if the budget allows and the needs are there. I would want to see the whole picture and how it would impact the county.

~ 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.

Experience in politics vs. business

Oregon seems to mirror our federal government in so many ways, especially in following a failing policy that has plagued all of us for the past 11 years and maybe longer...tax and spend.

That wagon train has just about run us all into the poor house and needs to be changed. The money fountain that used to have no end, the billions in special interests and many more billions being doled out in tax breaks by both Oregon State and the federal government under misleading premises is running out of steam. Too many political heads have misused their power and often become career politicians, feathering their own nests, while this nation falls deeper and deeper in debt to foreign countries.

Do you really believe that more back scratching in Salem is going to solve this state's financial woes? Is it really important that our state leaders be part of the "good ole boys club" to be a good leader in Salem?

It is time for a 'proven and successful business leader' to step into a senatorial position, backed with the skills and knowledge to face small business' many issues throughout the state. The core of small business today deals with all the people issues this state wants to solve... jobs, benefits, medical care, taxes and labor relations, as well as the whole bucket of those environmental issues. We need less government, less control, less time spent writing new laws, less squabbling about nothing and more "paying attention to business." Business leaders know what I am saying, and that is why I believe Maryl Graybeal Featherstone is the right vote and the right person to represent the 29th district in Salem.

I urge you to give her your support also.
 Norm Kralman
 Milton Freewater, OR

Searching for family, history

I have just been sent an article from 1980 about a pioneer picnic at the Morrow County Fairgrounds. The event was hosted by Darrel and Sue Vinson. Is this annual picnic still taking place?

My mother was a Vinson and I have been trying to research my great-grandfather, Thomas Henry Vinson. I am curious about the possibility that he may be related to Darrel and Sue.

Thomas Henry first turned up in Pierce Co., WA in 1870. He married Lucinda Warfield. Lucinda apparently died in the mid 1870s, as Thomas Vinson married my great-grandmother, Josephine Teeters, in 1877.

My mother's side of the family doesn't seem to know very much about him. I traced him from Pierce Co. to Sprague River in Lake Co. (now in Klamath Co.), OR in 1880. From there he went to Shasta Co., CA. in 1886, 1892 and 1896. Josephine is recorded as a widow in the 1900 census and she was living in Siskiyou Co., Ca. with a family by the name of Turpin.

Any information that might help me with my research or family connections would be helpful.

Thank you.
 Rod Hanley
 Molalla, OR

Youth fishing derby planned

The seventh annual youth fishing derby will be held at Cutsforth Park on May 5 from 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

This a free event sponsored by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Morrow County Parks for children 14 years old and younger.

Cutsforth Park is located at 58430 Willow Creek Rd., Heppner, OR. For more information, contact Betty Gray at the Morrow County Public Works Office, 541-989-8214.

SWCD to meet

The Morrow SWCD will hold a regular meeting on Tuesday, May 1, at 6:30 p.m. at the Ag Service Center, 430 W Linden Way in Heppner.

Agenda items include approval of previous minutes, treasurer's report, Morrow County Budget Committee update, OWEB grant applications submitted, habitat projects update, office building improvement discussion and partner reports.

Meetings of Morrow SWCD are open to the public. For special attendance requirements, contact Janet Greenup at 541-676-5452.

ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE: MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.

That's dedication!



Ione Community School teachers Diana McElligott, Jordan Bemrose and Torie Dowdy (pictured) braved the wind and rain to watch students play in the baseball opener and cheer IRT to its first victory last week. -Photo by Erin Heideman

Three amigos



The Ione Minors Baseball team, sponsored by IRT, kicked off its season last Tuesday in a game against Heppner. Teammates (L-R) Hunter Padberg, Matt Orem and Jake Heideman led the two teams in the Little League pledge before the game. IRT plays in South Wasco on April 26 and in Arlington April 27. The team is coached by Eric Orem and assisted by Deacon Heideman and Jeff Eynetich. -Photo by Erin Heideman

ODFW public meeting

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) invites all interested people to a public meeting on Wednesday, May 3, from 6-8 p.m. at the ODFW office in Heppner. The ODFW office is located in the old Kinzua mill office at 54173 Hwy. 74 in Heppner.

Agenda items for the meeting include proposed tag numbers for the 2012 big game seasons and proposed season structure changes, including a change to the Columbia Basin archery closure for the 2013 season.



Congratulations to Brandon Wedding.

We are proud to have Brandon as an employee at MCGG. He has been with MCGG since June of 2009 where he has worked in the propane department.

Brandon demonstrates an incredible way of communicating with customers and fellow employees. Brandon goes above and beyond what is expected of any employee.

Good Job Brandon!!



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May 6th is Nurses Day!



Don't Forget about our dedicated Nurses!

Mother's Day Baskets Now Available!

We can build you a custom Mother's Day basket

ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS DAY SPECIAL!!

CARNATION, VASE AND MYLAR BALLOON ONLY \$10

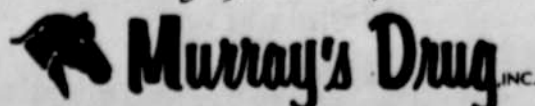


DRINK CAMEL TOFFEE LATTE \$3.25
 SPECIALS WATERMELON SPRITZER \$2.25

Wedding Tables

Kyle Carlson & Brenda Gleason

Shower: April 27, 2012
 Wedding: June 16, 2012



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