

~ 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.

Vote Grieb for county commissioner

To the editor:

I have been to two county candidate forums for county commissioner. Commissioner Grieb has been falsely represented as not devoting enough time to our county.

We have known Ken for several years and have seen him put in countless hours of community service above and beyond his duties as commissioner. Ken and his wife have volunteered many hours to our county's youth. Ken is very devoted to our communities throughout Morrow County. He has always been accessible to answer any questions and concerns we have had about our county.

Ken Grieb is clearly the only ethical choice. Please join us in supporting Ken Grieb for Morrow County Commissioner.

Respectfully submitted by:
Raymond and Tanya Akers, Boardman

Grieb will 'fairly support' the county

To the Editor:

After reading some of the endorsements for the other candidate for Morrow County Commissioner, I felt compelled to provide the other side of the issue. First I question the numbers of missed meetings. According to my research he has attended well over 90 percent of the meetings over the last seven plus years. Never has he missed a meeting without prior notification to the other commissioners and staff.

The meetings missed were to spend time with his family, i.e., spring break, special activities with his young children, etc. Other times were so he could provide community services for the young people of our county, i.e., special auctions, announcing sporting events, etc. Is there anyone out there that can condemn an individual for spending quality time with their family or making contributions to the youth of our county?

As a member of an organization that Ken Grieb represents as a commissioner, I can tell you that while he had not attended all of our meetings, he has stated many times that if there is an issue, "just give him a call." Recently, the need for his assistance has arisen and, as promised, he has been there to assist our organization through the trying times.

From my observation Ken Grieb is here to fairly support the entire county, and does not have any special interests other than what is best for all of Morrow County.

Please join me in re-electing Commissioner Ken Grieb for Morrow County Commissioner.

Respectfully,
Arletha Brannon, Heppner

Don't take health services for granted

If we are sick, injured, or need medical assistance, our ambulances, clinics, trained staff and hospital are always there and ready for us. We assume that the medical services we need will be ready, properly equipped and close by to assist. They always have been. And we are fortunate to have them.

In this election our medical district is asking for the continuation of a tax levy that will help bring us these quality and responsive medical services. I would urge you to vote yes on the health district levy, and not take the health-care services we count on and use, for granted.

David Sykes, Chairman, Vote Yes For Medical Services Committee, & April Sykes, Heppner

WCVEDG 'in full support' of health district levy

To the Editor:

The Willow Creek Valley Economic Development Group (WCVEDG) Board is in full support of passing the upcoming ballot levy for the Morrow County Health District (MCHD). MCHD provides local services and is an important and critical economic driver for each of our communities in Morrow County. They currently employ 78 employees county-wide and pay out wages of \$4,650,000 annually.

There will not be additional cost to the taxpayers, as the levy will be a continuation of the previous levy, which is \$.39 per \$1,000 property valuation. The length of levy is five years and will help to:

- Maintain and improve access to quality care;
- Purchase of new ambulances for Boardman and Heppner;
- Implement electronic health record in clinics, home health and hospice;
- Upgrade cardiac monitoring system at Pioneer Memorial and Emergency room.

Please join us in supporting this levy and keeping and improving the services offered by Morrow County Health District.

Sincerely,
WCVEDG board members: Ed Rollins, Nancy Snider, Jeff Bailey, Kim Cutsforth, Marcia Kemp, David Sykes and Sheryll Bates, Project Coordinator

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Support for Don Russell

To the Editor:

I am writing this letter today to support Don Russell as a candidate for Morrow County Commissioner.

I made my decision based on questions I have asked Don in his present position as a commissioner of the Port of Morrow.

Over the last three years we have had numerous discussions about some of the laws governing and decisions made in the area of enterprise zones, the CREZ program and the general need for livable wage paying jobs in Morrow County.

During the process of my fact-finding, it has been my experience that Don has always taken the time to answer my questions completely, and with honesty.

One of his best qualities has been that if he did not immediately know the answer he would assure me that he would check it out and get back to me in a timely manner, and he always has. I have always thought it was refreshing that he has never used the usual political rhetoric when answering questions.

After Don filed to declare himself a candidate, his statement to me was that he would put in the effort, the work ethics and the time to fulfill his duties to the best of his ability.

With that pledge, his experience, and his present contributions to Morrow County, I gladly, and encourage others to, support candidate Don Russell as Morrow County Commissioner.

Howard L. Mullins, Ione

'Don't vote for Grieb'

To the Editor:

Do not vote for Ken Grieb for Morrow County Commissioner.

In Ken's seven years as a commissioner, he has been absent from 38 of the weekly county court meetings. (You can confirm this yourself by looking at the minutes of the Morrow County Court meetings, which are public record.) Ken seldom, if ever, attends the committee meetings he is assigned, training, or extra county court meetings.

From my viewpoint it appears that Ken's only interest in serving as a Morrow County Commissioner is the \$35,000-per-year salary and health insurance valued at over \$1,600 per month.

Thank you,
John Wenzholz, Irrigon
Former Morrow County Commissioner

CANDIDATE FORUM

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King is running for the U.S. Senate, and he said it doesn't matter if you elect either a Democrat or Republican; you will get the same result because both parties only care about one thing.

"They do whatever they can to win the election and stay in power," King said.

He says he doesn't think the government should be concerned with "what people do in their bedrooms" and should not be involved with gay marriage issues. He also doesn't think the government should be in the business of spying on their citizens' phones and emails. King also said he feels the government is wasteful with taxpayers' money.

For U.S. House of Representatives, running against Greg Walden (who was not in attendance) is Dennis Linthicum of Klamath Falls. Linthicum has been a county commissioner for 30 years and says the federal government has "gorged itself on power." He says the federal government has increased its power by creating \$17.5 trillion in debt and used it to fund federal agencies that dictate and control the American people.

Linthicum, a computer programmer and analyst, is in favor of limited government, term limits, legal immigration, school choice and Second Amendment rights.

He attacked Walden, saying he is part of the Washington status quo and is "doing nothing more than the bidding of house speaker John Boehner."

Morrow County Commissioner candidate

Ken Grieb spoke, saying that during his seven and half years as a commissioner he has gotten along well with the other commissioners and worked hard to iron out problems throughout the county. As an example, Grieb related on instance where he sat down with local pilot John Boyer and worked out problems Boyer and the county were having about the operation of the airport, thus avoiding a legal battle.

"I have no agenda and will serve all of the county," he said. Commissioner candidate Don Russell spoke about his background as a long-time county resident and businessman, and his experience and successes as a board member on the Port of Morrow. Russell hit incumbent Grieb on the issue of not attending more county-related meetings, other than the regular weekly commission meetings.

"They advertise this as a half time job. I believe you have to put in more than just the meetings on Wednesday," Russell said. He said that if a commissioner only goes to county commission meetings on Wednesdays, with the salary received he would be getting paid \$300 per hour.

"You need to show up for more than just the commission meetings," Russell said, promising that if elected he would do more.

When asked if he

would resign from the Port if elected to the county court, Russell said that he would. He said he would remain on the Boardman Rural Fire Protection District Board, however, saying he did not see that as a conflict.

District Attorney candidate Justin Nelson is running unopposed for reelection but came to the forum because he felt it is important for voters to hear from their elected officials. He thanked the Tea Party for sponsoring the forum. Some of the improvements and positive changes implemented since his election are the setting up of a new internet case management system, which allows himself or others in his office to access case information wherever they are. He also pointed to his opening an office in Boardman, staffed by his deputy district attorney, as offering more service to the people of Morrow County.

Morrow County Health District CEO Dan Grigg also took time to speak about the district's tax levy, saying that our local communities should feel fortunate to have the good medical services we do. He pointed out that the levy is not an increase in taxes but a continuation of a previous levy. He said the levy would be used to maintain and improve access to quality care, purchase new ambulances for Boardman and Heppner, implement electronic health records in clinics, home health and hospice, and upgrade cardiac monitoring systems at Pioneer Memorial Hospital and the emergency room.



Don Russell



Ken Grieb



Justin Nelson



Dennis Linthicum



Dan Grigg

“Greg Walden fights hard on behalf of Oregon's farmers and ranchers against overreaching regulations by the EPA and other federal agencies. That's why I'm supporting Greg Walden.”

— Barry Bushue
President, Oregon Farm Bureau

Greg Walden
GREGWALDEN.COM

Vote Greg Walden for Congress in the Republican Primary.

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