

Lindsay files for county judge

Another contender has thrown her hat into the ring for the county judge position in the upcoming primary election.

Melissa Lindsay of Heppner announced she has filed for the position of Morrow County Judge, which current judge Terry Tallman will vacate at the end of next year.



Melissa Lindsay

budget committee, serves on the Morrow County Cultural Coalition board, and is vice president and past president of the Heppner Jr./Sr. High School Booster Club.

She will run against Greg Sweek of Heppner, who filed for the judge position in December.

Lindsay is a Heppner native, graduating from Heppner High School in 1986. She attended Mt. Hood Community College and obtained an associate's degree in social science in 1988 before graduating from San Diego State University in 1990 with a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration. She worked as Oregon branch manager at GMAC

Mortgage in Lake Oswego, OR for several years before returning to Heppner in 1995. She then worked at Inland Empire Bank as a loan officer and at Bank of Eastern Oregon as the mortgage division manager and vice president before leaving to be owner and operator of Turner Ranch, Inc.

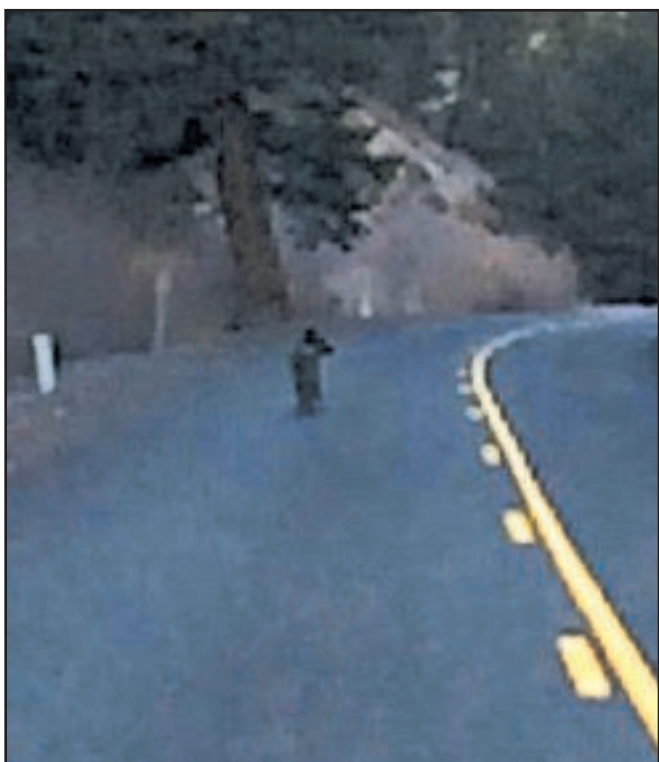
Lindsay is going into her third year on the Morrow County Planning Commission, has served three years on the Morrow County Health District Foundation board, is current chair of the Morrow County School District

County positions up for grabs in next year's election are Morrow County Judge, Morrow County Commissioner Position 1, Morrow County Clerk, Morrow County Justice of the Peace, Morrow County Sheriff, Morrow County Surveyor and Morrow County Treasurer. All are four-year terms except for judge and justice of the peace, which are both six-year terms.

The county court last year voted to eliminate the county judge position and move to three part-time commissioners with a full-time, paid administrator. However, Morrow County Clerk Bobbi Childers says the vote to make the change came after the Sept. 10 filing date for the position, so the official ballot title remains that of judge for the time being. Childers says whoever is elected would serve as a part-time commissioner according to the county court's decision but

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Wolf spotted near Anson Wright Park



Terry Harper of Heppner took this photo last Tuesday, Feb. 2, at 7:58 a.m., about a mile north of Anson Wright park on Hwy. 207. Harper said he had to hit the brakes and stop for the black wolf, which was standing in the middle of the highway some 15-20 yards in front of him. It then ran past his truck and up the bank by the road. Harper adds that anyone skiing in the area may want to keep a sharp lookout and an eye on their dogs. -Contributed photo

G-T will be open next Monday

The Heppner Gazette-Times will maintain normal business hours next Monday, Feb. 15, and will not be closed for the Presidents Day holiday. The deadline for next week's issue will remain at Monday at 5 p.m.

A friend in need receives a gift of love

By Andrea Di Salvo

Do you love any of your friends enough to give them a kidney?

That was a question Sarah Skroch asked herself last summer when she found out her good friend, Trisha Harding, was in desperate need of one. Harding was born with only one kidney; on top of that, the kidney she had was failing her. Harding had IgA nephropathy, also known as Berger's disease. It's a kidney disease in which an antibody called immunoglobulin A (IgA) lodges in the kidneys and hampers kidney function.

The women's husbands had met while skydiving in Montana; the women had a friendship that stretched back five years. Harding was already very ill when she told Skroch and her husband, Eric, about the disease—in stage four fail-

Local woman seeks help with animal rescue

By David Sykes

April Herzog firmly believes an animal shelter is needed in Morrow County, and Monday she went to Heppner City Council to ask for help in establishing one.

"I am here looking for ideas. I am looking for people who would take on providing an animal shelter," she told the city council. "I know there is no money, but I am still looking for any help you can give me."

While admitting there is an animal pet problem

in the city, the council said there is no money available for a shelter.

"We have always battled with a dog and cat problem," Mayor Skip Matthews said, but admitted there could be no financial help. The city operates a one-dog cage near the treatment plant on Riverside, but it is used only for short stays before abandoned animals can be transferred to Pet Rescue in Hermiston.

Herzog is passionate

about the plight of animals and has run a newspaper ad and printed flyers asking for like-minded people to step forward and help establish a local animal shelter. She said although some people have told her they agree, no one has stepped forward to help.



April Herzog wants to create an abandoned pet shelter.

"I've been told we need to set up a 501(c)(3) (nonprofit organization), and we need a board of directors, but I

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Sarah Skroch displays a certificate of gratitude for her donation of a kidney to her friend Trisha Harding. -Photo by Andrea Di Salvo

ure, she was only a step away from needing dialysis.

"She was on the waiting list," says Skroch, "but if you qualify (for a transplant) you wait five years on average in the U.S."

Skroch, 28, was living with her husband and three children in Hawaii, while Harding, 32, was at home in

Kalispell, MT. That didn't stop Skroch, from wanting to help. She says she first spoke with her husband about the possibility of donating a kidney to their friend.

"It's not just about me. I have children, a family," she says, but adds, "I have a strong belief that I'm here

for a purpose, and if I can help anybody out, I'm all for it."

With her husband supporting her, Skroch first checked to make sure she and Harding had the same blood type. Then she began the process of being tested for compatibility as a donor. In August she had blood drawn in Hawaii. Within 24 hours, doctors had to draw blood from Harding in Spokane and then take it to a blood lab to make sure the blood mixed well. Part of the process involved looking for six genetic markers, and doctors found a miraculous match between the two women.

"For us not being related...it was five out of six, which is a one in a million chance," says Skroch. "I can show you a picture of her. We look nothing alike;

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Heppner native establishes endowment for cancer research at OHSU

Editor's note: Pat Kilkenny is a Heppner native.

Pat Kilkenny and his wife Stephanie have established a \$5 million permanent endowment within the Knight Cancer Institute at Oregon Health & Science University, which will establish a cancer scholars program to support and mentor exceptional OHSU Ph.D. candidates.

Pat Kilkenny, now of San Diego, is originally from Heppner.

According to an OHSU press release, Pat and Stephanie Kilkenny have created the Frohnmayer Hicks Sciarretta Research Scholars Program to honor

the memory of three men who were central in their lives: Stephanie Kilkenny's father, John Hicks; former Oregon attorney general and University of Oregon president Dave Frohnmayer; and Pat Kilkenny's friend and former colleague, Mark Sciarretta. All three men died of cancer.

"My father was a successful attorney and businessman, but his true passion was serving his community and his country in a multitude of ways, and cancer took him too early," said Stephanie Kilkenny in the release. "I

believe he would be honored to know that one of his legacies is to help support bright young researchers who have the potential to help end cancer once and for all."

"Dave Frohnmayer and Mark Sciarretta were close friends and colleagues of mine who had a deep commitment to improving health care and outcomes, and who both died of cancer much too young," Pat Kilkenny added. "I am very hopeful that the scholars program named in their honor will help foster innovative new

approaches to detecting and treating cancer so that future generations will be spared lives cut short by this disease."

Pat Kilkenny attended the University of Oregon to study journalism in the mid-1970s, but dropped out before graduation to work in the insurance industry. He then spent most of his career in the insurance industry, most prominently as the owner of Arrowhead General Insurance Agency, which he sold in 2006. From March 2007 to June 2009, he served as the U of O's athletic director, donating

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Pat Kilkenny

Wee Bit O' Ireland is on its way

Mark your calendars now for Heppner's 34th annual Wee Bit O' Ireland St. Patrick's Celebration on March 18-20.

This weekend of celebration includes (just to name a few) Heppner chamber's Irish Smoker amateur boxing event, KUMA Coffee hour, and the Ceili, with lots of singing, laughing and celebrating.

Leprechauns will roam the city spreading cheer and good luck. Car enthusiasts will want to check out the modern and vintage classics at the Cruz-In and, of course, everyone will want to save a spot on Main Street for the Great Green Parade.

Visitors and locals are invited to watch the skilled canines at the sheep dog trials, as well as sign up to show off their own skills in

See more on St. Patrick's events, including the Irish Smoker and Road Bowling, on PAGE SIX.

Two Heppner players sign with Eastern



Two Heppner football players have signed letters of intent to play for Eastern Oregon University next fall. Patrick Collins (left) and CJ Kindle, both players on this year's state champion football team, signed their letters during a ceremony at Heppner High School last week. Both expressed thanks for the support they have received from the Heppner community. -Photo by David Sykes

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