

~ 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.

Radie perfectly suited for position

To the editor:
Seldom are we given the opportunity to elect someone who is so perfectly suited for the position for which they are running.

We have been blessed in this election cycle with such an opportunity in the candidacy of Debbie Radie for Morrow County Port position number five.

Debbie has spent the last twenty-seven years helping create the successful business that is Boardman Foods. This role has given her a unique view of the development, growth and investment that have created the thriving Port of Morrow.

Her leadership ability and compassionate devotion to service have not only made her successful in her chosen career but has been demonstrated over and over in the many volunteer and regional boards to which she has devoted her time. She has been instrumental in creating tools to provide quality jobs and training to enhance our eastern Oregon workforce and to help students find the skills to become effective working adults.

She has dealt with a variety of different types of budgets and financial implementation in her business, as well as on the boards, committees and community organizations where she has given her time. In each community of the county in which she has lived, she has offered her skills with great generosity and effectiveness, such as her service on both the lone and Morrow County School boards. She has been honored by the peers in her industry by her election as chair of the regional Food Northwest Association Board, whose

stated goal is "to advance the ability of the food industry to produce and deliver wholesome, safe food from the Pacific Northwest to the world."

Debbie brings knowledge of the needs and goals of the Port, experience in industry and as an effective and well-loved employer. She brings intellect and business acumen, as well as a positive vision for our area and a long-time commitment to making Morrow County a productive and positive place to live and work.

Other highly effective skills she will bring to this job are her gifts of being a good listener, an articulate voice when sharing information, her perception of and ability to share positive workable solutions, her knowledge and experience in dealing with risks and making needed decisions in a timely way.

Debbie has been so very successful because she has a talent for working with people that enhances their sense of worth and thus makes them more able decision-makers, as well. The Port is thriving and is also on the cusp of many new and exciting opportunities for growth and productivity. Debbie Radie is a candidate who will help this vision continue to expand employment and positive growth in all of Morrow County.

Please take this rare opportunity to provide the Port of Morrow with an exceptionally suitable candidate for Port Commissioner. Vote with us for Debbie Radie, Port position number five.

Sincerely,
John and Kerry Rietmann, lone, OR

Boardman fire district improves rating

To the editor:
The following letter was sent to Boardman Rural Fire Protection District Members:

I am very pleased to report that during recent rating survey from the Insurance Services Office, our protection class rating improved to a 3-3Y. The previous rating was 5-9. This new classification will be effective June 1, 2019. For many insured properties in the fire district, this rating resulted in a decrease of property insurance calculations. Insurance policy holders should contact their agent or company to determine the effects this change in classification might have on their policies.

The ISO grades the fire

department based on three categories. The first part is the emergency communications/dispatch system, which weighs in with 10 percent. The fire district tests for 50 percent. The public works/water counts for 40 percent. There is also an item called divergence which calculates the difference between the fire district and the water system. We did pick up an additional 4.39 points with the Fire Prevention Program which includes industry and business inspections along with hydrant testing. ISO has ten classifications. Ten, meaning no protection to One which is a score of 90 percent or better. (See graph of communities in the nation and their ISO ratings.)

William Louis “Wil” White

William Louis “Wil” White of Heppner was born on Feb. 9, 1957 in Man, WV to parents, Willie and Georgie Lambert White. He died on April 5 in Richland, WA at the age of 62 years.



Wil graduated from Moreno Valley High School in Moreno Valley, CA. He served in the United States Army and the Army Reserves for 14 years before his honorable discharge. Wil was united in marriage to Lori Letteer on Dec. 15, 1990 in San Bernardino, CA. He worked as a contractor in California until they moved to Heppner in 2005. Wil worked as the sexton for Lone-Lexington Cemetery District until 2018. He was serving as the associate pastor of the Heppner Church of the Nazarene and was studying to be ordained by the Northwest District of the Nazarene Church. Wil enjoyed music and especially enjoyed visiting and ministering to others.

He is survived by his

wife, Lori White, Heppner; daughter, Lauren Malpica (Raymond), Fresno, CA; son, Jeremy Stewart (Hilaree), Crescent City, CA; sister, Alice Rhoten; the joys of his life, his grandchildren, Madilyn and Graydon Stewart and Aeris and Jonas Malpica and nephews.

Wil was preceded in death by his parents, brother, Ira White and sisters, Lillie Lambert and Diane White.

A celebration of life service will be held on Saturday, April 13 at 11 a.m. at the Heppner Church of the Nazarene, 335 N. Gilmore St., Heppner, OR.

Those who wish may make contributions in Wil’s memory to the Heppner Church of the Nazarene or a charity of your choice.

Please share memories of Wil with his family at burnsmortuaryhermiston.com. Burns Mortuary of Hermiston is in care of arrangements.

Endorsing Debbie Radie

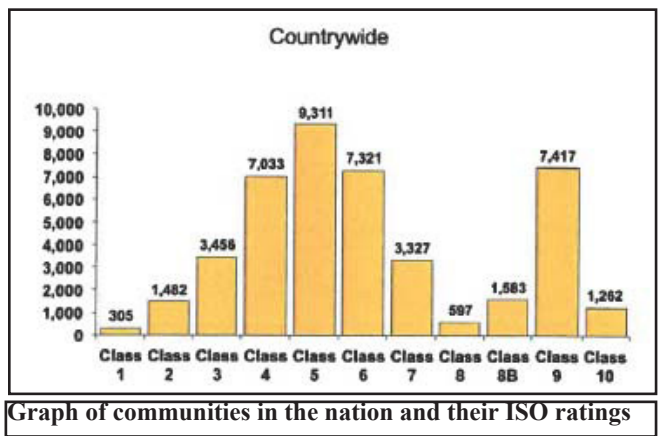
To the editor:
I am endorsing Debbie Radie for the Port of Morrow Commissioner position in the upcoming election.

Debbie is a long time Morrow County resident, having lived in Boardman, lone and now Irrigon. She is capable of representing the entire county and understanding the impact the Port of Morrow has on our region. For eight years, she and her family lived in lone and I saw firsthand her dedication to our community. She has continued to graciously volunteer her time and resources to support communities in all parts of this county.

Debbie is currently vice president of operations at Boardman Foods and has spent over 27 years serving

our communities though her work at Boardman Foods. Each year all teachers and staff in the county are treated by Boardman Foods to fruit boxes and chocolates during the holiday season. The children of employees at Boardman Foods can participate in afterschool programs at the plant until their parents get off work. Onsite doctors for employees and families are available each month, as well as college scholarships and after school and summer work for high school students.

Debbie sees the impact the Port of Morrow has on our region on a daily basis. She brings a wide variety of skills and experiences at the local and state level that will make her an effective



Graph of communities in the nation and their ISO ratings

The Class 3-3Y rating is due to recent additions and upgrades to operating programs and apparatus. A federal grant assisting paid staff for seven days per week coverage is now established within the fire district budget. Installing a full-time training officer proved effective with

detailed planning and execution of training improvements. The purchase of a new ladder truck in 2015 was accomplished with award commitment from the Columbia River Enterprise Zone (CREZII).

Volunteer staff is a key component of this survey. Boardman Rural Fire District can always use more volunteers to assist. If you or anyone you know are interested, please contact me at the fire station. I would also like to thank local business, City of Boardman and the Port of Morrow. With your support we were able to reach the goals needed to lower the rating. A rating of 3-3Y should result in a savings of your insurance dollars.

Sincerely,
Marc Rogelstad, Fire Chief
Boardman Rural Fire Protection District

Brent David Dickinson

Brent David Dickinson died at his home in Hermiston on March 28 at the age of 44 years. He was born on March 7, 1975 in Grandview, WA, the only child of Cecelia and Bruce Dickinson. When Brent was 18 months old, his father, Bruce, died so he and his mother, Cecelia, moved to Hermiston. When he was six, his mother married Richard (Rick) Drake.

Brent started school at Interfaith Christian School, a school and church his grandad, Bob Lovett, started and pastored (now Hermiston Christian School) and where his mom and dad both worked. When he was in junior high, the family moved to Vallejo, CA for his dad to work as a carpenter. They moved back to Hermiston when he was a freshman and he enrolled in Hermiston High School. At the beginning of his senior year, his dad got a wild idea to move to Alaska. Excited, they all began to pack. When the two vehicles were packed, loaded and ready to head out, his dad pointed to the car and said, "You're driving," quite a drive for a 17-year-old. Seven days and 2500 miles later, through snowstorms, gravel roads, miles of construction zones, border crossings and long days of driving, they arrived in a small crossroads community on the Alaska Pipeline, Gakona, AK. The welcoming committee for their arrival consisted of Mt. Spur blowing its top and spewing volcanic ash

Port commissioner. She has volunteered her time to the lone and Morrow County School Boards, Kiwanis Club, Umatilla/Morrow Travel Shed committee, Eastern Oregon Workforce Investment Board, Oregon State Workforce and Talent Board and is currently the chair of Food Northwest Association Board.

I encourage you to vote Debbie Radie for Port of Morrow Commissioner.

Sincerely,
Donna Rietmann
lone, OR

everywhere, 13 inches of heavy wet snow and 10 degrees below zero all within 48 hours. What an arrival.



Brent eventually moved back to the Hermiston area and graduated from Hermiston High School in 1993. He married Kristen Hollovet and they had a son, Bryce. The couple eventually divorced.

Brent was an avid reader, coming home to his mother one day after school with a book in his hand and saying, "Mom, don't you just love words?" He loved to skate-board but had to quit because of injuries and age, was an avid guitar player, loved baseball and MMA following many of the athletes' careers closely. A favorite memory of his was attending the Mariners game in the King Dome when Ken Griffey Jr. (rookie year) made his famous catch leaving his "Spider-man" imprint on the wall. He was always a friend to the down and out and those who needed help.

Brent is survived by his parents, Rick and Cecelia Drake, Heppner; sister Janet, Ontario, OR; foster brother, Jeremiah Garcia, Hermiston; long-time companion, Alyshia Bowe, Hermiston; son, Bryce Dickinson, Pendleton and 4-month old grandson, Blake as well as a whole host of aunts, uncles and cousins.

Brent was preceded in death by his grandparents Bob and Agnes Lovett, Pearl and Dale Dickinson, son Brok Palmer, cousin Mac Lovett, aunt Connie Lovett and his birth father Bruce Dickinson.

Brent had a storied life filled with many hills and valleys. He struggled with things many of us struggle with, gaining victory over some of those things, not so much others; he could have insight into people and situations many of us envied. "He will be greatly missed as 44 is much too young to be gone. God bless you Brent, and we will see you in Glory! Love, your family and friends."

Donations to help cover funeral expense may be sent directly to Burns Mortuary of Hermiston, P.O. Box 289, Hermiston, OR 97838.

A celebration of life service and burial will be held on Sunday, April 14 at 1 p.m. at the Hermiston Cemetery.

Please share memories of Brent with his family at burnsmortuaryhermiston.com. Burns Mortuary of Hermiston is in care of arrangements.

Thank you

Brett Cook

For 23 years of service as our Building Official.

Enjoy your retirement!

The City of Boardman

ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE:

MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.

