

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.

Clarifying points for Dam Right!!

To the editor:
Thank you for the large article published this week; however, I would like to clarify a couple points that were somewhat misinterpreted. First it is "Dam Right!!" committee. Our Facebook group is not a page, but rather a group. You can search Dam Right!! on your Facebook page to find it. Everyone is welcome to join, and we welcome people to ask questions, comment and to list concerns. This will give our committee a chance to know what is on the minds of those in the community.

Here are a few things that were mentioned in the article that need clarification:

1. "The Jar Test" is a test that was given to me by Joel Bleth. He is the co-founder of the Madora Corporation. The test is to determine if the algae in the lake is good or bad algae. It is not to determine how much algae there is. You can find this test at Search Jar Test to find the details.

2. The lake water has been contaminated with blue-green algae for longer than 2007, but that is as far as the history has it recorded online by the Oregon Health Authority.

3. The green-blue algae is not necessarily what is weakening the dam, it is the acids in the water that we feel affect the health of the dam. The blue-green algae, after using all the nutrients on the surface will die, fall to the bottom, and use up the oxygen-making the water anoxic. This condition is what causes hydrogen sulfide to form. As stated, I am not a biologist, but have been told by a limnologist, who once worked for the USACE in the 80s, that these acids found in the waters: sulfuric, nitric and carbonic acids, could in fact be at levels that could possibly cause the corrosion to the dam. That is something we will be looking into and is something that the USACE will deny.

4. I was surprised to read that the USACE said that "when those rapid test (algae tests) exceed certain levels then the lake is posted with warning not to swim, fish or otherwise use the lake." This would be nice to see. It is my understanding that the OHA is the agency that posts those notices, but they told me that they no longer post those signs, but instead have on their website that, "When in doubt, stay out," which is not MY saying. It is the warning now given by the OHA. That is the reason I believe anyone who plans to go to

the lake should sign up on the OHA page to receive an email notification when there is an algae warning. It is a service they offer. I will be looking for that warning sign that the USACE says they post. I thought that ended around 2008.

5. As for the "increased nutrient inputs" being the main cause of the algae in the lake according to the USACE. That would be politically correct. I spoke to Mr. Wilhelm myself. He is the man who performs the tests of the waters in lake. He agreed that farming/ranching above the dam may be part of the cause, but did say that even more than that, it is from the erosion of the stream banks. That is why I suggested one idea might be to plant vegetation near the banks. Not barley hay, but there is Riparian vegetation, of which I have yet to study up on. My suggestion was also to have the farmers and ranchers place bails of barley straw in the streams at the entrance and exits of their property. This is a known help in the breakdown of the high nutrients that are found in the agricultural runoff.

6. Lastly, I would like to comment on the cost of the aeration system for \$90,000, and of the solarbee for \$346,000. I am not sure what the USACE paid for the aeration system, the price I came up with was an estimate given in the Pre-construction analysis of the Willow Creek Project. As for the solarbees, I spoke with Joel Bleth at the Madora Corporation, and the Madora Corp. placed those in the lake as a trial to try and sell their product. For three years they did free testing of the solarbees. I do not believe that the USACE paid for any of that. The dorpa had them pulled because they said that they did not work, according to Bleth.

I would suggest that if anyone has questions about the causes of pollution to the lake that they read the "Long-term Release of Additional 1,000 Acre-feet (Totaling 3,500 Acre-feet) Supplemental Environmental Assessment to the Long-term Withdrawal of Irrigation Water Willow Creek Lake, Morrow County, Oregon Environmental Assessment, March 2008." Written by US Army Corps of Engineering Portland District. Pages 21 through 25 talks about the water quality.

Sincerely,
(s) Theresa Jones
Heppner

Births

Lincoln Scott Wardlaw

Lincoln Scott Wardlaw was born August 4, 2018, at Ann Arbor, Michigan to Jennifer and Malcom Wardlaw. Grandparents are Scott and Mickey Madison of Buttercreek and Peggy and Malcom Wardlaw of Austin, TX. Great-grandparents are Nellie Madison of Portland, OR and Darlene Hoskins, Heppner



Allegation without validation

To the editor:
This is in response to the article titled "Lexington struggles for firefighters" in the April 17 edition of the Gazette-Times.

First, it should be said that I do not personally know Marcia Kemp or Curtis Thompson. That being said, I do know injustice when I see it.

The article stated that Ms. Kemp "refused to consider" one candidate who applied for appointment to a vacant town council position. Tim Shulte and Curtis Thompson both turned in letters of interest to be appointed to the spot, however Kemp said she would not allow Thompson to be considered or even voted on for the council. For her "explanation", Kemp alleges that Thompson "harassed" a city employee and that disqualifies him from being on the council.

It should be noted as relevant that the only reference in the Town of Lexington Charter referring to disqualifying "crimes" is under Section 15: Vacancies: occurrences, Sec. 2d: which states a person's seat becomes vacated if they are convicted of a felony while in office.

When councilmember Bill Beard asked the very astute and valid question of the nature of the alleged "harassment", Kemp refused to elaborate, citing the possibility of the city being open to "liability" if the situation were discussed in an open meeting.

In my opinion, far greater liability lies in not discussing it as it would

Murray will support both ends of county

To the editor:
I am writing this letter in support of John Murray for the Port of Morrow commissioner.

It has been my great privilege to participate in many different organizations throughout our county. These experiences have shown me what a valuable asset the Port of Morrow (POM) is to our communities. I appreciate that even though the POM is located at the north end of our county, they continually reach out to us in the south. It is important that the POM commissioners understand the needs of all communities in the county. This is a difficult task as we are all very diverse in our demographics.

Heppner/Ione softball/baseball schedules

Varsity Baseball
Saturday, April 27, 10 a.m. vs. Dufur / South Wasco County
Saturday, April 27, Noon vs. Dufur / South Wasco County
Saturday, May 04, 11 a.m. @ Sherman / Arlington / Condon
Saturday, May 04, 1 p.m. @ Sherman / Arlington / Condon
Tuesday, May 07, 4 p.m. @ Grant Union / Prairie City
Saturday, May 11, 11 a.m. @ Union / Cove
Saturday, May 11, 1 p.m. @ Union / Cove
Tuesday, May 14, 2 p.m. vs. Stanfield / Echo
Tuesday, May 14, 4 p.m. @ Stanfield / Echo

seem Mr. Thompson would have a legitimate discrimination complaint. If Mr. Thompson had been cited and/or charged/convicted of harassment, it would be public knowledge and no need to limit/withhold discussion would exist. The same reasoning would apply if the city employee had obtained a restraining order against Mr. Thompson. Since neither were cited in Kemp's refusal, one can only assume it is because neither is the case.

Furthermore, Mr. Thompson is entitled to the opportunity to defend himself against allegations, a right divined to each of us. For instance, does the "incident" Kemp alludes to even meet the criteria of "harassment"?

The circumstances of trial by public (and worse, personal) opinion has reached epidemic proportions in our country and is a dangerous practice to keep. Allegation without validation has all but replaced innocent until proven guilty. It is highly disappointing to see this practice so blatantly applied in our local communities, Small Town, USA.

Were I the judge of this particular court of public opinion, I would have to rule in favor of Mr. Thompson and further rule that Marcia Kemp is not fit to be mayor of any community due to her rather large inability to set personal feelings aside in order to effectively lead and help further the best interests of that community.

(s) Cheyenne M. Rogers, Heppner

John Murray is a member of a county-wide board. He has displayed an equal approach to the needs of the citizens that the Morrow County Health District serves.

John Murray is a business owner and has made substantial investments in both the north and the south ends of Morrow County. This shows that he will understand and support all of Morrow County. It is important to the residents that we support an experienced and dedicated community member, that will give attention to all our needs. That person is John Murray.

Sincerely,
Kim Cutsforth

Port is county's greatest asset

To the editor:
The Port of Morrow is the county's greatest business asset, generating over 3 billion dollars in business every year and making the Port the second largest Port in Oregon. Larry Lindsay, whom many credit as the visionary father of the Port and the commissioner that brought Gary Neal who Lindsay called "the greatest Port manager in America," has retired after 54 years of Port leadership. Lindsay and Neal's stewardship of the Port, with the diligent assistance of fellow Port commissioners and Port administrators, have fostered the employment of over 8,000, directly or indirectly, affording Morrow County one of the highest average household incomes in the state.

With both Lindsay and Neal now retired it is imperative to select the right person to continue their vision for the Port of Morrow. Fortunately Larry Lindsay's son by marriage, John Murray, has made a commit-

Vote Murray for Port commissioner

To the editor:
We urge all to join with us in supporting John Murray for Port of Morrow commissioner. John Murray is a hardworking, respected, ethical leader in our communities, who we believe will make good and impartial decisions as a Port of Morrow commissioner.

John Murray has business interests in all parts of the county and is a second-generation Morrow County resident, having been raised here himself, and chosen Morrow County to raise his own family. John has proven his abilities while serving on many county-wide boards and

ment to take his place on the commissioner's board of directors. The Lindsay and Murray families have exercised leadership, vision, integrity and stewardship in Eastern Oregon and Morrow County for half a century. The Port of Morrow is a business and John Murray is a business owner that knows how to balance a budget, create and expand his business and gain the confidence of the public by his astute management of the pharmacological regulatory process.

The Murray family has been a great blessing to Morrow County since they arrived in Heppner in 1959. It was John's mother Meg Murray that authored the restoration of the old dilapidated Heppner Hotel into the successful Heppner Senior Center. Expect the same vision, leadership and integrity from John Murray and vote for him to succeed and continue the work of his father-in-law Larry Lindsay.

Stuart Dick, Irrigon

commissions. He is well-versed in Oregon Legislative politics and respected throughout the state for his business and public service roles.

We believe John Murray will serve as commissioner in a totally independent role, whether acting on specific contracts or while setting Port policy in general. John's business interests are independent of the Port, which we believe is so very important.

We encourage everyone to vote and to join in our support of John Murray for Port commissioner.

Thomas and Karen Wolff, Heppner

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

High School Spring Sports Schedules

Heppner track schedule

Saturday, April 27, 55th Centennial Invitational
Saturday, May 4, Dick Horyna Invite
Friday, May 10, 2A-SD5 Special District 5 District Track Meet
Friday, May 17- Saturday, May 18, OSAA 2A State Championships

Saturday, May 04, 2:30 p.m. @ Grant Union / Prairie City
Saturday, May 11, 11 a.m. vs. Weston-McEwen (Athena)
Saturday, May 11, 1 p.m. @ Weston-McEwen (Athena)
Tuesday, May 14, 3 p.m. vs. Pilot Rock / Nixyaawii
Tuesday, May 14, 5 p.m. vs. Pilot Rock / Nixyaawii

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