

~ 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 makes the community a better place

To the editor:  
I am writing to support Debbie Radie for Morrow County Port Commissioner. I got to know Debbie when her family lived in Ione. Debbie and her family made our community a better place during their years there. As Booster Club president she was tireless and encouraged everyone to be involved and help in any way they could. When Deb asks you to help...it's impossible to say no, because she sets such a shining example of hard work and a positive attitude.

My son and I had the opportunity to tour Boardman Foods. I was impressed with her knowledge of the agricultural sector of our community. It was an im-

pressive display of team work. No wonder they have won so many awards. Again, a great example of her leadership skills and ability to work well in any environment.

I have known Debbie for over twenty years. She knows Morrow County well as she travels around and supports each town and their events. She understands the importance of business and the jobs they provide. Morrow County is growing and the Port is a very important part of that. Debbie's experience as a leader and manager is just what the Port needs. I can't think of anyone who would do a better job.

Sincerely,  
Penny Krebs, Ione

## Murray the best option

To the editor:  
My name is Wacy Coil. I was born and raised in Heppner. Recently, I moved back to my hometown to work in my father's fabrication shop, Coil Fabricating. The reason I am writing this letter is to inform residents of Morrow County of why I believe John Murray would be the best option for the upcoming Port of Morrow commissioner election.

I have known John since I was knee high on a grasshopper. He and his family have always been fixtures in my life. I grew up alongside his five children, participating in sports and hunting trips with his sons and been to countless family dinners. In all of the time I've spent with John, one thing stands out; he is first and foremost a family man. It is evident in his dedica-

tion to his children, his wife Ann and his commitment to continuing his father's legacy, Murray's Drug.

Secondly, he cares deeply about his community. John grew up in south Morrow County, attending school in Heppner and Ione, and is very invested in bettering the place he calls home. I truly believe he will not only listen to his community concerns, but also act on the problems that are brought to his attention and do his best to improve or fix any issues.

As a man I have looked up to and respected my entire life, I will be placing my vote and my trust in John Murray for Port of Morrow commissioner. I hope this letter will help you to do the same.

Wacy Coil, Heppner

## Vote yes on the tax levy

To the editor:  
After working to improve the quality, availability and accessibility of health care for rural communities throughout the past several decades, I would like to offer the following information for your consideration about the importance of sustaining essential care and supporting the Morrow County Health District local option levy.

In our county, we benefit from having a strong health care system to support our needs during all stages of our lives and ensuring the availability of family medicine, emergency medical, home health and hospice and inpatient and outpatient services vital to our community. I have assisted communities that continue to thrive because they demonstrate strong support for local health care and I have also observed the converse: services for a community lost that can rarely be regained.

If you aren't aware, it is quite expensive to provide health care for a rural area. Many services aren't financially reimbursed at the level equal to what it costs to provide the care. Most health districts require an operating levy to ensure the provision of health services, as does ours. Continuing to fund an operating levy and local option allows the health care providers to create opportunities for people to receive care and achieve their maximum level of health.

Morrow County is one of very few remaining rural areas, where local control of decisions about health care delivery is preserved; not administered or consumed by a larger "system." Your support of local services ensures we maintain local control, are financially viable and retain critical care.

Have you ever needed an emergency response or considered the time it takes to receive emergency care when you need it? What might be the outcome if you called 911 and emergency services were an additional forty-five minutes to an hour and a half later responding? Have you become familiar with the care provided by the home health and hospice program? If you haven't, please take the time to, and for a just a moment, ponder life without the security of knowing we have access to local care in time of our greatest need.

The health care sector provides a significant contribution to the economic vitality of our county. We benefit greatly when friends and family are employed as staff or work as volunteers of the Morrow County Health District and having a stable, high-quality medical service is fundamental to attracting industry and families to our area.

Over ten years ago, a county-wide collaborative of all Morrow County health care providers, human services and community partners was formed - the Community Health Improvement Partnership (CHIP). The health district was one of the founders leading this effort, which continues to exist to jointly examine community needs and plan for better health for all people living in Morrow County.

Would you please consider joining me to vote yes to support renewal of our health district local option levy? Your vote will help ensure we have the infrastructure, technology and workforce to meet future needs of our community.

Andrea Fletcher, Lexington

## Murray is excellent candidate

To the editor:  
For many years I have had the honor of representing Morrow County on the Port of Morrow commission. It has been truly an unforgettable experience and I am extremely grateful to the citizens of Morrow County for allowing me that opportunity.

The Port of Morrow is blessed with an extremely competent staff of employees from top to bottom. I am confident that this is an excellent time to retire from the Port commission.

I am proud that John Murray has decided to file for this position on the Port and I endorse him for the open position in the coming term. John Murray

has participated in several county wide positions. He has volunteered 14 years to the health district and participated in numerous board training programs.

His pharmacy business has been successful in various parts of Morrow County and he has served customers in all the towns of Morrow County. He has been a willing volunteer in numerous county organizations and is sincerely interested in the welfare of all our county residents.

John Murray has demonstrated admirable ability in business and public service. He is an excellent candidate for the Port commission.

Larry Lindsay

## Please vote for Murray

To the editor:  
I am submitting this letter to encourage all of my fellow Morrow County voters to join me in voting for John Murray for the Port of Morrow Commissioners position being vacated by his father-in-law Larry Lindsay. Now I would like to tell you why I am strongly supporting John Murray. I have had the privilege of working with both candidates, so I feel I am in a unique position to be able to make an educated decision in this important election.

When I was in charge of the AARP Tax Aide program, Mrs. Radie volunteered as a tax preparer for a couple of years. I also brought her name forward to be on the Eastern Oregon Work Force board. I have a great deal of respect for her abilities and applaud her for her accomplishments. That being said I was very concerned by a comment she made at the Heppner Chamber candidates forum. She stated that some individuals had approached her and suggested that she run for the commissioner position. That tells me that maybe her heart is not into this endeavor.

Now for why I am put-

ting all of my support behind John Murray. I have known John Murray for many, many years. I have had the honor and privilege of working with John on the Morrow County Health District board for the past 14 years. During that time John has displayed both dedication and professionalism. John always comes to meetings well prepared and asks for the engagement of his fellow board members. John fully understands that the only employee that answers to the commission is the Port manager.

John sees the county as one entity and has always expressed concern for all residents of the county. For the last two- or three-years John has expressed an interest in being a Port commissioner. Therefore, I know he has put a lot of thought into the time commitment, travel requirements etc. expected from a Port commissioner. John is one of those exceptional individuals that has integrity, high intelligence and most of all common sense. For all of the above reasons, my vote goes to John Murray.

Please vote.  
Leann Rea

### A View from the Green

## Over the Tee Cup

Twenty-three Willow Creek Country Club ladies enjoyed a sunny and beautiful day on their playday held Apr. 23.

Low gross on the field went to Nancy Propheter, low net to Lorene Montgomery and least putts of the field went to Eva Kilkenny.

Low gross for flight A was Virginia Grant and low net went to Karen Thompson. Least putts winner was Loa Heideman. Virginia Grant also got the long drive and longest putt for flight A.

Flight B low gross went

to Pat Dougherty, low net to Judy Harris and least putts was Karen Haguewood. Dougherty also had the long drive for flight B and Haguewood the longest putt.

Bunnie Lindsey took low gross on flight C and low net was Sharon Harrison. Least putts was a tie between Bev Steagall and Jennie Creswick. Nancy Aransan received the long drive and Sherry Mahoney got the longest putt.

Nancy Propheter got a birdie on hole number eight.

## Marksmanship teams compete

Heppner and Ione Marksmanship teams have completed their first week of competition. Athletes must shoot at least 50 rounds each week and can shoot on Sunday or Wednesday evenings at the Morrow County Gun Club in Lexington. Head coach is Ken Kippley and is assisted by Travis Greenup and Erin Heideman.

Total shooting scores for the Heppner team were Tiffany Akers, 16; Madi-

son Ashbeck, 35; Tucker Ashbeck, 38; Struthers Bohanon, 31; Zachary Bredfield, 20; Hunter Greenup, 43; Justin McAninch, 30; Gibson McCurry, 32; Matt Orem, 28; Kevin Rea, 32 and Kannon Wilkins, 36.

The total shooting scores for the Ione team were Jake Heideman, 26; Grace Ogden, 12; Colt Parker, 29; Kalvin Rietmann, 29 and Evan Ferguson, 33.

## Community lunch menu

Hopeful Saints volunteers will serve lunch on Wednesday, May 9 at St. Patrick's Senior Center. Lunch will be pork chops, mashed potatoes, orange kissed beets, spinach salad, hot rolls and Boston crême pie for dessert.

Milk, coffee and tea is served at each meal. Suggested donation is \$3.50 per meal. Menu is subject to change.

### Funeral Notices

**Judith "Judy" (Paine) Shannon** - a celebration of life will be held May 4 at 11 a.m. at the United Methodist Church in Heppner. A reception will follow in the church basement fellowship hall. Shannon was born July 14, 1942 and passed away January 26, 2019.

## Bag sale scheduled

The Neighborhood Center will hold a bag sale on Wednesday, May 1 from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Proceeds from the sale help support the food pantry.

The first bag is \$15 and the second bag is \$10. Items included in the bag sale are

clothing, shoes and books with all other merchandise being 50 percent off.

The Neighborhood Center is located at 441 N Main St, Heppner. For additional information call 541-676-5024.

**Can you hit the thousand yard target?**  
**lone Thousand Yard Shoot Fundraiser**  
**Saturday, May 4, 2019**  
Registration starts at 8:30 a.m.  
outside Ione, Oregon  
(Frank & Joe Halvorsen Farm)

**3 Rifle Classes • Cash Prize**  
**Gun Raffle • Door Prizes**  
**Clay Pigeons • Pistol Range**

All proceeds will be used to fund free activities for kids at the annual Fourth of July Celebration

**More info:**  
[www.ionethousandyardshoot.com](http://www.ionethousandyardshoot.com)

**No dogs allowed**



## Kinder roundup to be held

Heppner Elementary will be rounding up all the kindergarten students for the 2019-20 school year on May 21 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Children will meet Mrs. Calvert, tour the school and participate in other fun activities. Contact Mrs. Robinson at 541-676-9128

to register for the kinder roundup.

Parents should bring their child's birth certificate, immunization record and emergency contact information. Students must be five years of age by August 31, 2019 to enroll.

**NURSE'S DAY May 6th!**  
**Show your appreciation with**  
**Hallmark Cards, Gifts,**  
**Balloons & Floral**  
**Arrangements!**



**Mother's Day! May 12th**  
**Order your flowers now!**  
**Tell Mom you love her with**  
**unique gifts, Hallmark cards &**  
**candy!**

**Delivery Available**  
The Country Rose - floral department 541-676-9426



SINCE 1959  
217 North Main St., Heppner  
Phone 676-9158 • Floral 676-9426  
[www.murraysdrug.com](http://www.murraysdrug.com)

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