

~ 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. Email to editor@rapidsolve.net or upload to Heppner.net.

Impressed with Stokoe

To the Editor:
Eleven years ago I was very impressed by Rick Stokoe when he went through the interview process for the City of Boardman Police Chief position and was pleased when Rick accepted the position. He has proven himself to be a tremendous community and regional leader since that time.

Rick is a true public servant, an active volunteer who has served on a variety of committees and helped with many community activities. He is a dedicated family man, married to wife Shari for 28 years. His two children are also Morrow County residents and continue to call Boardman their home.

Stokoe deserves your vote

To the Editor:
The Port of Morrow is the second largest port in the State of Oregon and is the site for diversified industries that provide employment for some 8,400 employees.

Rick Stokoe, resident of the board of commissioners of the Port of Morrow, is running for reelection. He deserves your vote. His name will appear on your primary election ballot which you may have already received by the time you read this letter.

If the Port of Morrow Commissioner race is the only position for which you vote, please vote to reelect Rick Stokoe. Since the port embraces all of Morrow County it is important to maintain geographic diversity on the

His goal is and continues to be, "to contribute to the betterment of Morrow County in order to provide the best possible future for our citizens, children and future generations". A thoughtful, insightful person, Rick has contributed greatly these past six years as a commissioner for the Port of Morrow.

Please support and vote to re-elect Rick Stokoe so that he may continue his service as a Port of Morrow Commissioner, working along with all of the commissioners to keep the Port of Morrow moving forward in a positive and proactive manner.

Gary Neal
Retired, Port of Morrow
Executive Director

Stokoe for Port Commissioner

To the Editor:
Rick Stokoe is a man of dignity and honor. As the Boardman Police Chief, he is a trained leader. That leadership has helped him serve as a port commissioner since 2015. He is a man who cares and respects others. He is a fair man who wants what is best for Morrow County as a whole.

Rick has a very busy life with his family and work. That does not stop him there. He volunteers in the community as a coach with our youth, Morrow Education Foundation, and even as an ambulance driver. He cares about Boardman but also feels strongly about developing and pro-

Stokoe for POM

To the Editor:
Rick Stokoe has my vote for Port of Morrow Commissioner. He has a proven track record for serving the community with high integrity and professionalism.

Since 2015 he has served as a commissioner and supported the activities at the Port. The Port has continued to grow and support the opportunities for our local communities to prosper as a result. We have more jobs, higher than average wages, more diversification of industry. The prosperity of our county has seen enormous impacts due to the work that Rick Stokoe, along with the other commis-

commission.

Rick is employed full time as the chief of police in the City of Boardman where he supervises 10 employees, keeping the peace in the city and assisting the county sheriff in Irrigon and elsewhere when requested. Rick has been the chief in Boardman for 11 years, during his 31-year career in law enforcement.

He was appointed to the Port of Morrow Commission six years ago and has been elected to a four-year term since then and was elected president by his peers.

Your vote to reelect Rick Stokoe to the Port of Morrow Commission is important.

Ed and Frances Glenn
Boardman

Support re-election of Stokoe

To the editor:
We have known Rick Stokoe since he interviewed and was hired as the Chief of Police for Boardman in 2011. Rick immediately became involved with the Boardman community as more than just the Chief. Rick has exhibited strong fiscal policies in all the entities

he is involved with. It is very important the Port Commission continue the policy of equitable representation for all of Morrow County. Please support the re-election of Rick Stokoe for Port of Morrow director.

Ray and Carol Michael
San Luis Obispo, CA

Wyden to hold three online town halls

Senator Ron Wyden has scheduled three live online town halls May 1-2 for residents of Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa and Wasco counties

Wyden has held 970 in-person town halls statewide in fulfillment of his pledge to hold at least one town hall each year in each of Oregon's 36 counties. "Wyden has postponed in-person town halls until there are clear-cut public health guidelines that a large open-to-all public meeting poses no unusual health risk for Oregonians. After the pandemic in March 2020 required Wyden's town halls to go virtual, he has continued to hold regional and county virtual town halls," said a Wyden spokesperson.

"The 'Oregon Way' is all about conversations with Oregonians statewide and while precautions require a temporary hold on in-person town halls, I'm eager to throw open the digital doors of democracy to residents of Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa and Wasco counties," Wyden said. "Big thanks to People's Town Hall for

helping these discussions to continue online with Oregon communities large and small to hear directly from Oregonians about their priorities and to answer their questions."

The virtual town hall schedule is as follows: Morrow County, 3 pm, Saturday, May 1; Umatilla, Union and Wallowa counties, 11:30 am, Sunday, May 2; Wasco County, 3:30 pm, Sunday, May 2 "Town halls are essential to our democracy," said Nathan Williams of People's Town Hall, a virtual town hall series from the founders of Town Hall Project. "But during this global pandemic, we strongly encourage all lawmakers adhere to current health guidelines -- including holding town halls virtually as long as necessary for public safety."

"People's Town Hall invites all of Senator Wyden's constituents to this town hall -- all parties welcome, no issue off limits." Williams said. "We expect another substantive, vigorous discussion of the issues that matter most to Oregonians."

Kindergarten roundup May 5

Heppner Elementary School will be hosting Kindergarten Roundup for incoming 2021-22 school year Kindergarten students at the HES Gym on Wednesday, May 5, from 5:30 - 7 p.m.

Students must be 5 years of age by August 31, 2021 to enroll at HES. "This will be an in-person event with COVID-19 regula-

tions strictly followed," said school personnel. "Masks and social distancing will be required."

Parents need to bring their child's birth certificate and immunization record. Parents are asked to check the HES website to pre-register students or contact the HES office at 541-676-9128.

Mushrooms are free up to the legal limit, if you can find them

Mushrooms are returning to the forest floor. If you know where to look, and what to look for, mushrooms are available to pick for personal consumption within the daily legal limits: one gallon in Oregon and five gallons in Washington.

No permit or payment is required to harvest, possess, or transport up to these legal limits, provided the mushrooms are not sold or traded but enjoyed by the picker. The 2021 Mushroom Guide is available in three different languages on each Forest's website and includes important rules and helpful tips regarding harvesting mushrooms off National Forest lands.

Those seeking to harvest mushrooms beyond the legal limit, or for commercial purposes, will first need to obtain a commercial permit. Permit sales began Monday, April 26. Commercial pickers who plan to camp in the National Forest will also need an industrial camping permit.

Please contact the nearest National Forest office to discuss your permit needs. Office contact information may be found on the lower-left sidebar of the following websites which also include information about mushroom permits: Malheur National Forest; Umatilla National Forest; and Wallowa-Whitman National Forest.

To help care for the land while picking mushrooms recommendations include:

- Use a knife to cut your mushrooms at their base. This reduces disturbance to the soil and can help mushrooms to continue growing in that location.
- Carry your mushrooms in a net bag, which better preserves them and allows spores to spread for future production.
- Give wildlife plenty of space and leave newborns alone.
- Practice "leave no trace" ethics, and please take all your trash home with you.

• Remember that commercial mushroom picking is prohibited in wilderness areas, research areas, or any areas that are currently closed. Please report any violations promptly to the Forest Service.

Be aware that many forest roads are still not accessible due to mud and snow. Traveling on wet mountain roads and terrain can be dangerous. It can also cause resource damage, which can be illegal. Contact the nearest district office for up-to-date information on road conditions and current closures.

To improve your personal safety in the woods, please plan ahead, pack the "Ten Essentials," and travel with others. Also be sure to tell a friend or family member where you are going; stick to your plan and let them know when you will confirm your safe return.

Keep in mind that many wild mushroom varieties are poisonous. When in doubt, leave it out. It is the responsibility of the picker to properly identify a mush-

room and determine whether it is edible. There are many guidebooks available to assist with identification. The local library, county agricultural extension office, and local mycological society are good sources of information.

Mushroom pickers often contact National Forest offices to learn where wildfires and prescribed burning have occurred in recent years. For everyone's convenience, those locations are now identified in an interactive prescribed fire map for the Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests. To locate recent wildfire activity, refer to the National Interagency Fire Center's interactive wildfire map. Recently burned areas present unique risks to visitors, including falling snags, hidden tree wells, and damaged or closed roads and trails. "Please be aware and prepared. Enjoy your National Forests and take care out there."

Prepare for unexpected power outages with a Generac home standby generator

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!
877-557-1912

FREE 7-Year Extended Warranty*
A \$695 Value!
Offer valid February 15 - June 6, 2021

Special Financing Available
Subject to Credit Approval

*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.

LeafFilter GUTTER PROTECTION

BACKED BY A YEAR-ROUND CLOG-FREE GUARANTEE

CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE 1-855-536-8838

15% OFF YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE*
10% OFF SENIOR & MILITARY DISCOUNTS
5% OFF TO THE FIRST 50 CALLERS**

Mon-Thurs: 8am-11pm, Fri-Sat: 8am-5pm, Sun: 2pm-8pm EST | Promo Number: 285

*For those who qualify. One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. ** Offer valid at estimate only. CSLB# 1035795 DOP# 1078658-5501 License# 7656 License# 50145 License# 41354 License# 9938 License# 128344 License# 218294 License# 603 233 977 License# 210221296 License# 210621296 License# 2705321253A License# LEAFNRW222 License# W0056912 License# WC-29998-H17 Nassau HIC License# H01067000 Registration# 176447 Registration# HIC.0649905 Registration# C127229 Registration# C127230 Registration# 366920918 Registration# PC6475 Registration# IR731804 Registration# 13VH0959300 Registration# PA069383 Suffolk HIC License# 52229-H License# 2705169445 License# 262000022 License# 262000403 License# 0086990 Registration# H-19114

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

We are Looking for Drivers in Heppner, Lexington or Ione

The Loop provides public transportation to the residents of Morrow County. The Loop is seeking a professional team member who has excellent customer service skills, enjoys working with the public, organized, detail-oriented individual who can work independently to perform a variety of duties.

Starting at \$13.36/hour

WE'RE HIRING!

Call Us Today!
(541) 676-5620

the loop

WHEATLAND INSURANCE CENTER, INC. Serving Eastern Oregon since 1983.

HEPPNER 294 MAIN ST. P.O. BOX 755 HEPPNER, OR 97836 Office (541) 676-9113 • Fax (541) 676-9001 1-800-504-9113	IONE 245 NW MAIN ST., SUITE 100 P.O. BOX 26 IONE, OR 97843 Office (541) 422-7410 • Fax (541) 276-7688 1-800-585-7410
---	--