



# the HEPPNER GAZETTE TIMES

## May 18 election sees only 30 percent voter turnout

Stokoe, Healy retain Port seats; Cain, Davis win school spots; Ione bond gets yes vote

By David Sykes

Last week's election saw Morrow County voters sent current board members Rick Stokoe and Jerry Healy back to the Port

of Morrow for another term, elected Jacob Cain and Kalie Davis to the Morrow County School Board and saw Ione voters give a yes vote to an ambitious \$18.5 million special election, with just 30 percent of voters bothering to fill out their ballots. Out of 6,874 eligible voters, only 2,108 voted.



Jacob Cain, school board

In the most contested race in the county, Stokoe won three out of five precincts to get the win with 925 votes at 49 percent in the three-way election. Healy won handily with 62 percent of the vote and the Ione bond passed 177 to

107 with 62 percent saying yes. See the election spreadsheet in this week's paper for a recap of all the contested races.

The school bond for \$18.5 will finance several proposed projects at the school including a new 19,000 square foot high school building, new gym and fitness center, library and public meeting rooms and a shop remodel. It is also proposed to do a kitchen remodel, conversion of an existing stage into a music room and construct covered secure walkways. Repairs are also planned for both the swimming pool and the principal's house.



Kalie Davis, school board



Jerry Healy, re-elected to Port



Rick Stokoe, re-elected to Port

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Since the bond passed, the school district will now be awarded a matching grant of \$4 million from the Oregon School Capital Improvement Matching (OS-CIM) Program for a total of \$22.5 million available for the proposed projects.

## Results for contested elections in the county

Candidate & Position	Heppner	Ione	Lexington	Irrigon	Boardman	Total	Percent
<b>Port of Morrow Pos. 1</b>							
Jonathan Tallman	54	22	21	117	108	322	16.32
Rick Stokoe <b>Won</b>	172	138	64	175	376	925	46.88
John Kilkenny	323	94	108	127	72	724	36.7
<b>Port of Morrow Pos. 3</b>							
Rick Weiss	123	34	41	172	212	582	30.88
Jerry Healy <b>Won</b>	402	204	130	177	259	1172	62.18
Chandler Schaak	20	12	7	39	49	127	6.74
<b>MC School Board Pos. 7</b>							
Tia McNamee	151		47	249	155	602	39.04
Kalie Davis <b>Won</b>	302		98	168	370	938	60.83
<b>MC School Board Pos. 2</b>							
Jacob Cain <b>Won</b>	251		47	228	248	798	53.59
Marisela Rodelo	161		98	165	295	685	46
<b>Boardman Fire &amp; Rescue</b>							
Kenneth Browne <b>Won</b>			3	0	300	303	24.07
Jeff McCauley			2	1	290	293	23.27
Donnie Griggs <b>Won</b>			4	1	309	314	24.94
Lisa Pratt <b>Won</b>			3	0	342	345	27.4
<b>Irrigon Fire Protection</b>							
Scott Ezell <b>Won</b>				166		166	43.46
Steven DeRush				64		64	16.75
Tom Arbuckle				150		150	39.27
<b>OR Trail Library # 4</b>							
Anna Browne <b>Won</b>	177		155		313	645	51.48
Stephanie Case	188		223		195	606	48.36
<b>OR Trail Library # 3</b>							
Jeanette Meyers <b>Won</b>	189		226		259	674	57.41
Nicole Kent	144		157		195	496	42.25
<b>OR Trail Library # 5</b>							
Ragna TenEyck	78		161		217	456	34.47
William J Kuhn <b>Won</b>	413		212		240	865	65.38
<b>Radio District # 2</b>							
Loren Dieter <b>Won</b>	208	116	80	205	401	1010	64.5
Karen Primmer	168	61	51	165	108	553	35.31
<b>Boardman Park At large</b>							
David Boor <b>Won</b>					340	340	62.73
Marie Cain					198	198	36.53
<b>Boardman Park At large</b>							
Teiko Villegas					100	100	10.66
Mike Hughes					186	186	19.83
John Christy <b>Won</b>					259	259	27.61
Norma Ayala <b>Won</b>					239	239	25.48
Lynn E Prag					154	154	16.42
<b>Boardman Cemetery</b>							
Smokey Joe Wightman <b>Won</b>					421	421	48.84
Chandler Schaak					161	161	18.68
Karen Pettigrew <b>Won</b>					279	279	32.37
<b>Ione School Bond</b>							
Yes <b>Passed</b>		177				177	62.32
No		107				107	37.68

## Port and Morrow Development plan new industrial park facility at Heppner

By David Sykes

In a joint venture between the Port of Morrow and the Morrow Development Corporation a new 10,000 square foot "flex space building" is being planned for the South Morrow County Industrial Park site near Heppner. The facility is to be constructed across the highway from the old Kinzua mill site up higher next to the former mill office building now housing the Oregon State University Extension offices.



The new planned flex space building is to be located across the highway from the former mill site next to the current OSU Extension office. The building will be located outside of the flood plain with visibility from the highway.

According to Port Manager Ryan Neal the building will be 50 X 100 ft and have 20-foot-tall eaves and be dividable into 2,500 sq ft suites for rental to different businesses. "Each space will have room for a small office and warehouse space along with a large rollup door for activity in and out of the warehouse along with office and customer parking," Neal told the Heppner

Gazette-Times. Under the development arrangement Morrow Development will finance and own the facility with the Port managing and overseeing its development. Neal says the Port has also requested funds from Oregon's federal delegation for help with development

of a potable (drinkable) water system for the South Morrow County Industrial Park during this current legislative session. Morrow Development Corporation was founded in 1994 to provide gap financing to businesses in Morrow County. It has a five-member board of

directors consisting of Jerry Healy, Karen Pettigrew, John Moffit, George Koffler and Ryan Neal.

For more details and interest in potentially leasing space in the new facility, Neal says to contact the Port at 541-481-7678 or email leases@portofmorrow.com.

## Health District problems aired in front of packed board meeting

A large crowd crammed into the Morrow County Health District Board meeting room in Heppner Monday night, some to protest the resignation of Dr. Russ Nichols, some to criticize the practice of a current physician, some to praise that physician and some to vent their frustration with the district. Over 25 people, in addition to board members and staff, attended the meeting.

Staff, board and many in the community had earlier received an inflammatory letter from a disgruntled health district employee, who may have composed the letter on company com-

puter. The Heppner Gazette-Times also received that letter but chose not to publish it due to a lack of a signature, as per the G-T policy.

Sheridan Tarnasky, who worked for the district for many years as an RN and then as a provider, said that she was saddened by the current situation and noted that the district "will be losing a lot of revenue" with the departure of Dr. Nichols. In addition to clinic and hospital duties, he also performed upper and lower endoscopies. "Where was the plan when you knew you had a problem?" asked Tarnasky. Tarnasky's mother was an early admin-



Victor VanderDoes, interim administrator

istrator at the hospital.

Toni Young, medical assistant at Pioneer Memorial Clinic, chided the board, saying "You guys

(the board) have a lot of explaining to do."

Dr. Edward Berretta, who, along with his wife, Dr. Jeanne Berretta, was employed by the district for many years, offered to step in as a member of the medical staff remotely.

Interim administrator, Victor VanderDoes, who served as administrator in past years, was in attendance at the meeting. The district ended the contract with previous administrator Ryan Fowler, "effective immediately" May 7. He had been with the district for only short period of time since previous administrator Bob Houser's retirement in December. VanderDoes said at the Monday night meeting that the board will be receiving a weekly update, adding that he plans to listen to the community at Chamber of Commerce meetings and to "each individual staff member, privately."

Dr. Ken Wenberg, former physician with the district for "some 30 years", also commented on his employment with the district and expressed regret concerning the district's current situation.

John Murray, MCHD Board Chair, said complaints have been received

from district employees who said they often didn't know what was going on at the hospital until they read about it in the newspaper. Murray suggested the board move their meeting night to Thursday, so the employees would have time to learn

the details before the information came out in the Gazette-Times. Life-long community member Corey Sweeney, who is also a member of the Heppner

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## Boardman Food Pantry holds appreciation dinner

'Pantry was formed by whole community of Boardman coming together'



Debbie Radie (far left) Vice President of Operations at Boardman Foods, visits with Boardman Food Pantry Board Chair Mary Killion, while Madison Hynes (left) and Karla Jimenez get ready to serve visitors at the appreciation dinner held last week. -Photo by David Sykes

To show appreciation for all those who made it a success, the Boardman Food Pantry held an appreciation dinner at its new facility, a former church, last week.

"The pantry was formed by the whole community of Boardman coming together and supporting us. We wouldn't be here today without the help we have had not only from individuals but businesses, volunteers, people bringing goods and also donat-

ing financially," said Food Pantry Board Chair Mary Killion.

Since opening in March of 2020, the pantry has served food boxes to over 2,100 households and 7,360 individuals. The pantry continues to help people providing food boxes to 50 to 60 households per week averaging up to 160 people, Killion said.

She also put out the word for people who would like to volunteer to help.

"We are always looking for people to help us in some way, whether to come and pack boxes or those who can help financially," Killion told the Gazette-Times.

The Pantry, located in a former church at 314 Locust Road in Boardman, is a nonprofit and governed by a board of directors. Their phone number is 541-219-9535, and their pickup hours are 9:30 to 11 a.m. on Mondays and 6 to 7 p.m. on Thursdays.

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