

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.

## Sykes, the choice for county commissioner

To the editor:  
My wife and I bought a ranch on Rhea Creek and moved there in the Spring of 2011. As a resident of Morrow County, I observed there wasn't much transparency in the politics of county government.

David Sykes was the realtor we dealt with when we bought the ranch. We discovered he was also the owner of the local newspaper. I had many discussions with him about county government. David began going to Morrow County Commissioner meetings and over the last 10 or so years he has learned a lot about how government works in Morrow County.

I have moved from Morrow County, but we continue to own property there. We continue to sub-

scribe to the newspaper, and I have read with great interest how the commissioners have handled the spending of monies from sources other than taxes.

I was a county commissioner in Idaho for 25 years. As a commission, we tried to budget based on the needs of the county, the employees and the taxpayers. My observation is these commissioners don't seem to be very concerned about the taxpayers.

David Sykes would be my choice for county commissioner. He has learned the job of a commissioner as well as the workings of county government in general. I believe he would keep the taxpayer in mind.

Sincerely,  
Jerry Nance  
Weston, OR

## No reason to support Ellis Project

To the editor:

The proposed "Ellis Integrated Vegetation Project" is in actual fact a five to 13 million board foot (depending on the plan chosen) timber sale on 110,000 acres in the heart of the Heppner unit of the Umatilla National Forest. Four years ago, the project was presented and ultimately put on hold because of multiple concerns addressed by the public. The same timber sale has been reinvented under the guise of "restoration" with a public comment deadline of April 18, 2022. Five to thirteen million board feet of timber is equivalent to three fully loaded log trucks a day for thirteen months and/or up to nine fully loaded log trucks a day for one year. There is no reason to support this project.

1) The Ellis Project timber sale would severely undermine the headwaters of Butter Creek, Johnson Creek, Potamas Creek, Five Mile Creek, Sugar Bowl Creek, Ellis Creek, Pole Creek and unlimited associated springs that feed these mountain streams. The source of our well water, underground streams, are these aquifers that originate in the mountain reservoirs of the Blue Mountains.

2) The elk and deer are already leaving the national forest because there is mankind activity virtually every month in the forest, as well as out of control cats and wolves, all due to mismanagement by the Forest Service and ODFW.

This Ellis timber sale would

remove existing wildlife thermal and security cover on 110,000 acres plus add significantly more unnecessary human activity.

3) There were multiple timber sales in this area in the late 1990's. This Ellis Project commercial timber sale allows 10 to 90 square feet of basal area per acre. That is a disguised definition for clear cut logging (40 to 60 sq. ft. equals shelter wood clear cut) which will be the predominate method of commercial logging on this project. The Ellis Project has an undefined acreage for clear cuts.

4) On 283 miles of road and trail corridors, commercial logging would take place 300 to 500 feet from either side, hiding logging impacts. Unlimited new logging road construction would further erode forest riparian areas, aquifers and wildlife habitat.

The general public has until April 18, 2022, to respond to this timber sale. Only those that respond by April 18 will have standing to have a voice in the future of the Ellis Project on our local National Forest. You can write to the Forest Service in care of Doug McKay or Leslie Taylor, PO Box 7, Heppner, OR 97836 or by fax 541-676-2105. Electronic comments can be made on Umatilla National Forest webpage on Ellis Integrated Vegetation Project.

Our national forest is a gift from God. We have a responsibility to honor that heritage and pass it on to our posterity.

Stuart Dick, Irigon

## Beyeler has finished his chores in Boardman

To the editor;  
Barry Beyeler has finished the chores he had in Boardman, OR. I was shocked and saddened today while visiting a neighbor who brought up his passing. I truly wished for several minutes that I could go back in time and flag him down for a chat.

Conversations were fun with Barry because his love for this community was on the border of being comedic. He would get so excited about all the great things going on in Boardman that he could hardly maneuver a cigarette to his lips for a light. His excitement was understandable because he placed a bet on this town that it would be something special when he offered himself up to it so many decades ago. He was right to do so. Boardman is a real place where opportunities abound. Where there is opportunity, there is success and happiness, but also failure and tragedy. Barry got up every morning and did his best to keep the positive things outnumbering the negative.

## Melissa Lindsay for county commissioner

To the editor;  
We aren't ones to seek the public limelight when it comes to politics. But due to great concern over the direction our state and local county government can take us all, we want to step up and endorse Melissa Lindsay for reelection as Morrow County commissioner.

The old saying that "if it isn't broken, don't try to fix it" is how we feel. Missy has proven herself beyond

If I were to describe Barry to someone unfamiliar with Boardman; I would tell them to imagine Santa's head elf at the North Pole whose job was making the village a wonderful place for the worker elves to live. He would be jolly and dearly love the community he was charged with maintaining but would need plenty of cough syrup in his cocoa at dinner time to deal with the stress of keeping things perfect. He would not get the recognition like an elf tooling the most beautiful toys, and sometimes he would have to take heat when a pothole bounced a box of candy canes out of Santa's sleigh, but he would be proud knowing that he played a key role in making Christmas happen.

Thank you, Barry for making Boardman happen. You did the best you could, and that was a gift to every one of us who's chosen to follow you in making this our city.

Thank you for your time,  
J. Fletcher Hobbs  
Boardman

measure over the past six years as commissioner. Her energy, vision and ability to stand her ground to make tough and sound decisions for all of Morrow County is a real asset for us.

We desperately need to reelect Melissa Lindsay as a strong voice to be heard for the north, middle and south areas of Morrow County. A vote for Missy on May 17 is in our county's best interest.

Susan and Paul Hisler  
Heppner

## Impressed with Lindsay and Doherty

To the editor;  
After reading your article in the Gazette Times dated March 23, 2022, entitled, "Amazon drops 11.5 million surprise on county," as well as the discussion on how to spend the gift payment. I found myself filled with admiration for county commissioners Jim Doherty and Melissa Lindsay. I feel that they are truly the voice for those of us who are in the county, who ranch and farm, as well as those who own and run small businesses.

Big money businesses such as B2H and Amazon will continue to force their way through the opposition of small run operations to complete their agenda. It is nice to have elected officials standing up for those of us who are not always aware of what goes on at those levels. In my opinion that is the very reason we elect these types of people, people we can trust to have our best interest in mind.

My wife and I were privileged to attend a commissioner meeting in Heppner with three representatives of the B2H line who answered questions from farmers and ranchers. We have also met with local farmers and ranchers to hear their opinions on the project and the EFSC's latest site proposal. I think we

are all in agreement on how the project would best serve our needs. Commissioners Doherty and Lindsay seem to have heard our concerns and are actively engaging within the system to make our voices heard and accomplish the goals we are working towards.

It is for this reason that I commend the actions of commissioners such as Doherty, who have voiced concerns so loudly, that they were removed from committees for their boisterous outbursts. Sometimes you must be loud to be noticed, especially when the needs of your community are being ignored.

As longtime residents of the county, both commissioners Doherty and Lindsay come from farming and ranching families, carrying the responsibility of feeding our state as well as providing large revenue and tax money. The suggestion that this money be used to support many worthwhile projects in every taxing district of the county seems like the obvious choice.

I salute Jim Doherty and Melissa Lindsay for doing the job we elected them to do.

Sincerely,  
Mitchell Hays  
Morrow County  
landowner

**NEW LISTING!**  
**\$480,000**



There is plenty of room in this 3,680 sq. ft. 4 bedroom 4 bath home on 5.29 acres located on Dee Cox Rd near Heppner. Has family/game room, office space and a deck for summer barbecuing. Beautiful bamboo floors with an open kitchen and dining area. Top of the line induction cook top convection oven with air frying included. Daylight basement opens out to the backyard, where there is an outbuilding & chicken coop. These small acreage homes are hard to come by, so come and have a look soon.

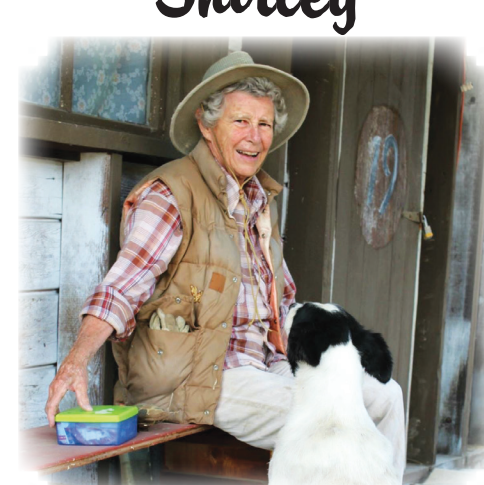
**61476 DEE COX RD Heppner**

**SYKES REAL ESTATE**  
188 W. Willow  
P.O. Box 337  
Heppner, OR 97836  
david@sykesrealestate.net

**Owner/Broker**  
**David Sykes**  
541-980-6674



**Happy 93<sup>rd</sup> Birthday Shirley**



Shirley Rugg's birthday is April 22<sup>nd</sup>. If you would like to extend your well wishes and greetings, send to:  
PO Box 157, Heppner  
That'll Do

**WWW.HEPPNER.NET**  
SUBMIT NEWS, ADVERTISING & ANNOUNCEMENTS  
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR  
SEND US PHOTOS  
START A NEW SUBSCRIPTION  
the HEPPNER GAZETTE TIMES



YOU'RE INVITED TO  
**2022 Candidates Forum**

19TH APRIL 2022

|  |  |
|--|--|
| 6pm<br>Gilliam & Bisbee Building<br>Light refreshments will be available | Join via Zoom Meeting<br><a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87076081831">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87076081831</a> |
|--|--|

Candidates in attendance will be: County Commissioner Position #2 Melissa Lindsay, Jeff Wenzholz, and County Commissioner Position #3 Gus Peterson, Mike McNamee and David Sykes,

If you would like to submit a question to the candidates, please send it to [heppnerchamber@gmail.com](mailto:heppnerchamber@gmail.com) by April 18th at 5pm

**It's Spring!**

**LET US HELP YOU**

- ▶ Purchase a Home
- ▶ Purchase a Rural Home with Acreage
- ▶ Build a Home ▶ Purchase a Lot
- ▶ Remodel ▶ Refinance

INQUIRE AT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH OR CALL:

**Raymond Seastone**  
541-676-9884 / 541-922-2828

**Arletta Arnspiger**  
509-546-7262

**Kaitlin Orcutt**  
541-303-8281

**SERVING MULTIPLE Oregon/Washington Construction Lending Areas**

**Bank of Eastern Oregon**




MEMBER FDIC  
KAITLIN-NMLS #1043345  
RAYMOND-NMLS #1337744  
ARLETTA-NMLS #1082276  
RATES & TERMS MAY VARY.  
ALL LOANS SUBJECT TO CREDIT APPROVAL