

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.

Due to the number of letters received after the Monday deadline will be published in next week's Gazette. Get your letters in before 5 p.m. Monday if you want to be heard.

Lindsay hard-working leader

Commissioner Melissa Lindsay is of the hardest working leaders Morrow County has ever had. She is very community-minded; she puts the needs of this county above her own and she always gives us 110 percent. Whether in her role as a commissioner or just as a neighbor, Melissa is always the first to offer support on a project or volunteer her time when anyone needs help. She truly cares about this community and has worked extremely hard to make it a better place for all of use to live—and she has been successful at that. It is disappointing to see a few angry people try to discredit someone who has done so much to make us better.

We need to support and stand with Melissa, just as she has done for us countless times. We need to thank her

for her unwavering dedication to the county and the people she has served and represented. I stand with

Commissioner Melissa Lindsay, and I hope you will do the same.

(s) Kim Carlson
Heppner, OR

County deserves better

In my opinion, Jim Doherty is a bully, and a liar.

On Aug. 17 I came to the Morrow County Board of Commissioners meeting to honor Judge Tallman, who I served with for 10 years. During the meeting I was appalled by the profanity used by Commissioner Jim Doherty. I waited till after the meeting was over to let Jim know that I felt that use of profanity in a public meeting was inappropriate. He then went back to his seat and told Commissioner Lindsay that I was out of line to mention his profanity. He then told her that he had seen the payoff by Morrow County because of me inappropriately touching some woman when I was a commissioner. This is just a flat-out lie. There is no payout from Morrow County because of something that I did. I have never inappropriately touched someone. Jim Doherty is a liar.

During the most recent contract negotiations with the union at the road department, the road department asked for a 3 percent cost of living increase for the next three years. Commissioners Lindsay and Doherty were adamant that they would only give a 2.5 percent cost of living. In fact, Jim Doherty was heard in his usual agitated yelling voice that if the union did not accept the offer, he would paint the "damn picket signs" for them. The ink was barely dry on the contract when Jim Doherty was in, lobbying for a 40 percent increase for himself for the

next year. At budget time, Jim voted for a 20 percent increase for himself. Why does Jim think so highly of himself and so little of the county employees who make the county function.

Since Jim and Melissa have been elected, Morrow County has gone through two administrators, and are looking to hire a chief of staff without input from the two commissioner-elects who will work with this person—or if this is even the position that they want going forward. They have also gone through two finance administrators, are on their third public works director, bullied the treasurer into retiring, bullied the planning director into leaving and thrown a fit because Jim's wife was not appointed Justice of the Peace when Ann Spicer retired. The workplace environment at Morrow County is toxic, and if for no other reason, these two commissioners should be recalled. Morrow County employees and elected officials deserve so much better.

The partnerships with our partners, the Port of Morrow, City of Boardman, City of Irrigon as well as others have been broken because there is no respect for opinions that differ from the commissioners. Before Jim and Melissa became commissioners there were quarterly meetings with our partners to talk about common goals. Now no one wants to be in the same room to be yelled at and dictated to by the commissioners. When I was a commissioner, it was okay to have a differing opinion; we did not yell and scream.

The commissioners have a strict policy on out-of-state travel, except for Jim Doherty. Jim travels everywhere on the county dime. He has been to Washington, D.C., Nashville, Anchorage, Las Vegas and Sun Valley for county business or vacation. He has never given a report on the benefit to the tax payers of Morrow County for these expenditures, and the cost of his travel would have more than covered the requested cost of living increase for the road department.

(s) John Wenzholz,
Irrigon, OR

Grass is not always greener

I am writing this letter to express my concern with the recall of the two of the current Morrow County commissioners. I have personally known Commissioner Melissa Lindsay for my entire life. I was a coworker with her for many years. Missy is one of the hardest working women I know and puts herself 100 percent into any job she takes on. I understand that with any person in authority, everyone may not agree 100 percent with the decisions made by these individuals, but they were elected by their peers to be in these positions. I feel like in this day and age, people are so eager to jump on the bandwagon with others to tear people down, instead of lifting them up.

From what I have come to understand about the ones who are asking for this recall, it seems to stem from a personal relationship with certain people

being fired from positions they held in the county. I don't claim to know what actually occurred, but as most people should know, there are certain things that cannot be disclosed for the benefit of that particular employee. It is the law that this information be kept confidential. It wasn't that they didn't disclose what happened, it was that they couldn't disclose certain information.

The county commissioners are the executive body for the county. It is the responsibility of the commissioners to oversee the county's management and administration, representing county interests at the state and federal level, to participate in long-range planning, and manage the county budget and finances. These commissioners have demonstrated their ability to do just that. They are doing what the county needs them to do. Just because you don't agree with their decision, is not a reason to recall them.

Commissioner Lindsay works with the citizens of this county to keep the quality of life you expect. I ask you to think of the picture as a whole when it comes time to vote on this recall. Please join me in supporting Commissioner Lindsay. People need to remember, the grass is not always greener on the other side. Be careful what you wish for as it may just come true!

(s) Dawna Dougherty
Heppner, OR

Lindsay advocates for the county

To the Editor:
Morrow County has had the privilege, and continues to, of having Melissa Lindsay be one of our county commissioners for six years. She has been, and continues to be, a strong advocate for our county both locally and statewide.

Melissa is not only dedicated to doing what is best for Morrow County as a commissioner but also as a citizen of Morrow County.

Let's not forget the many hours she volunteers around the county, whether it be for a bereavement dinner, fundraiser or helping out, one can always count on Melissa to be one of the first to volunteer.

Please join me in voting no to the recall of Melissa Lindsay.

(s) LaRae Kindle,
Heppner, OR

Support Lindsay & Doherty

I am writing to express my support for Commissioners Melissa Lindsay and Jim Doherty. I was the Juvenile Department Director under their direct supervision. Mrs. Lindsay and Mr. Doherty work tirelessly at bringing good to Morrow County. They are fair and always were supportive and genuinely involved in all departments, which is not normal for county commissioners. This recall effort appears to be vindictive in nature. The Morrow County citizens elected these officials to make tough decisions, which they have done, some more difficult than others, but their leadership, vision and compassion for their duties should not be in question. Mrs. Lindsay was very interested in the juvenile system and supported our work. Mr. Doherty's work both at the state and federal levels has been highly beneficial for the citizens of Morrow County. Both are dedicated to serving their constituents, the citizens of Morrow County. I strongly urge the voters of Morrow

County to support Melissa Lindsay and Jim Doherty. Without their leadership and drive Morrow County will suffer.

(s) Thomas Meier
Former Morrow County Juvenile Director
Pendleton, OR

Recall is disappointing

Dear editor:
I'm very disappointed to see that the recall is moving forward. This recall is costing our citizens tens of thousands of dollars—and an unimaginable amount of wasted other resources. It's not based on activities that actually warrant a recall. It is petty and retaliatory. Anyone should understand that the job requires making difficult decisions. This can be aggravating and emotional for people that don't have a clear understanding of the issues. No elected official would be able to do their job if a threat of recall was held over their head by every dissatisfied constituent. Melissa Lindsay has worked hard for all of us. She is honest and she cares. She does not deserve this. Please get out the vote. Do not let this recall happen. Vote no.

(s) Kim Cutsforth
Heppner, OR

In favor of Lindsay

We are writing today in favor of Melissa Lindsay. We know personally how much Melissa loves Morrow County and its people. As commissioner she works tirelessly for you, the citizens of Morrow County. She asks, "How can I benefit the people of Morrow County," not, "How can I benefit myself?" We know this because we know Melissa, and her heart is in Morrow County. She truly wants every town in the county to be the best place to live, work and raise a family. Isn't this what we all want? If so, then you too should support Commissioner Melissa Lindsay.

(s) Mark and Terrie Cutsforth
Kennewick, WA

Thank you, Commissioner Lindsay

We ask that you vote no on the recall. If you don't vote, you have no reason to complain on the outcome.

Mrs. Lindsay has been a great commissioner for Morrow County the last six years. She does not just sit back and complain; she gets involved to help make a difference in our community, county and state. Mrs. Lindsay's endless hours of dedication and commitment will never be matched. If you have an idea or need something done, get Melissa involved and it will be accomplished and done exceeding expectations. Melissa pushed hard to get the new Morrow County Justice Court and offices in Irrigon, which was very much needed on the north end of the county. Melissa has worked on several infrastructure grants to cities based on population yearly. Melissa fought for better bonding language in a CREZ agreement, which benefits the district surrounding Boardman. Melissa helped with getting the Gilliam Bisbee building up and going for an awesome venue for Heppner. She worked tirelessly along with her peers as a member of Morrow County Emergency Management as they navigated the Covid-19 pandemic. Melissa helped in pulling together a regional solutions team to get the septic system in Ione. Me-

lissa is a huge advocate for CCS (Community Counseling Services). Mental Health is a major crisis in our communities, county, state and nation, and Melissa will push for them to get the funding needed. When Melissa's term is up at the end of this year, she will not be done advocating, helping or serving our communities. She will continue to help make a difference to better all. Thank you, Melissa, for your commitment to our county.

Please vote no, November

(s) Jim and Becky Kin-dle
Heppner, OR

Lindsay is Eastern Oregon

Melissa Lindsay is Eastern Oregon. As a fifth generation farmer, we believe Melissa Lindsay is a firm and positive representative of sustainable, agricultural values. She has exhibited a strong commitment to community. We have all worked alongside her for years, and we are aware of her strong work ethic, her drive for success for Eastern Oregon and her compassion for those around her. Her decision making is selfless and her goals are to progress her community and Eastern Oregon as a whole. We are beyond blessed to have Melissa Lindsay as an advocate for Morrow County. We all benefit from her efforts in our small corner of the world.

Signed,
Bobby Levy, Tami Sinor, Erin Hansell Heidemann, Fran Rice, Sally Hansell, Cam Preus and Caryn Appler

Vote no on Commissioner recall

I have observed Melissa Lindsay in various situations, including her duties as county commissioner. She is passionate about Morrow County and conducts herself in a professional manner. She is very knowledgeable and fights for fairness across the county. She is extremely dedicated and continues to devote herself to our community with all her energy.

I want to address Roberts Rules of Order regarding an executive session. Executive sessions are for the commissioners only and the individual involved. The contents of these discussions are treated as confidential information. You don't know what was said and cannot judge because you don't have all the facts. The efforts for recall are a waste of our county's time and money. Let those you have elected to these positions do their jobs.

We ask that you support Melissa Lindsay as she completes her term as our Morrow County Commissioner.

(s) Gerry and Nancy Arnson
Heppner, OR

Lindsay is a public servant

Dear Editor,
While elected officials are accustomed to taking criticism, there are certain parts of the responsibility often overlooked in the sphere of public awareness. We are all aware how contentious the political realm is, and yet there is still important work to be done that goes unnoticed. Over the last several years working with Commissioner Melissa Lindsay, I have observed her to be some-

one that stays focused on getting the important work done. Commissioner Lindsay steps up, with passion and heart, to serve in a way that is admirable and rare. My observation of her is that she's more focused on the service part of being a public servant that the political part. I have found interacting with her to be both inspiring and helpful; the woman knows what she's doing. I want to express gratitude to Commissioner Lindsay for her integrity and enthusiasm in tackling tough projects for the benefit of all Oregonians.

(s) Klamath County Commissioner Kelly Minty
Klamath Falls, OR

Vote no on recall

Please look back at the many positive things Melissa Lindsay and Jim Doherty have done for Morrow County during their time as commissioners. We all know that you can't please everyone all the time, but these two dedicated people have always made decisions they thought were best for all of Morrow County. The majority of the people voted them into this office, and it would be very disappointing to not support them by voting for this recall.

Please vote no on the recall of Melissa Lindsay and Jim Doherty.

(s) Judy Buschke,
Heppner, OR

Lindsay positive presence

Melissa Lindsay has been a most positive presence in the Association Of Oregon Counties (AOC). Since first meeting her in 2017 until present time, she has always represented her county and Oregon extremely well. The combination of tough, thoughtful, caring intelligence has been a positive influence, especially where finances are concerned. I have had full confidence in Melissa's ability as AOC Treasurer to handle budgets and analyze complex balance sheets. She will be missed at AOC, Eastern Oregon and Morrow County. It is with sadness that I see my friend and ally no longer in service as a county commissioner. I hope the very best for her in whatever she pursues and will always hold the highest respect for the integrity in which commissioner Lindsay conducted herself.

Sincerely,
(s) Todd Nash
Wallowa County Commissioner

Vote like family and children in cross hairs

To the Editor
It is not difficult to determine who is behind this recall against County Commissioners Melissa Lindsay and Jim Doherty. Sure, Ann Spicer and Coral Mitchell micromanaged the Don Russell/Darrel Green-orchestrated, drummed up public hysteria to ruin two public servants. The real issue is why. Melissa Lindsay was not re-elected. What is the purpose of going after her? A slap in her face on her way out? A message to any future commissioner candidates to watch their back lest they offend those pulling the strings of this recall attempt? More diabolical agenda, much more.

All we have to do to understand this recall that is tearing the heart and soul out of our county and way of life: follow the money. Amazon is about to build