

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.

Veterans celebration a job well done

I would like to thank the people of Heppner and the staff and administrators at Heppner High for the Veterans Day event they organized on Nov. 10. I was extremely impressed with the planning, the execution, the talks by the Vets, the reception, etc. Jeanne Collins and others—great job! I think this is a great tradition for the Veteran community, HHS, and for the community in general.

While I was at the school I saw some pretty amazing things, from the student body and from the faculty. I saw a respectful student body that listened and reacted with the veterans, as well as sat quietly while they were telling their stories. This level of respect seems rare in today's world from our youth, and Heppner should be very proud of that.

Bravo Zulu! A job well done.

Scott McEwen
San Diego, CA

Lindsay earned respect and trust

"One's philosophy is not best expressed in words. It is expressed in the choices one makes. And the choices we make are ultimately our responsibility." ~ Eleanor Roosevelt

Please join us in voting no on the recall ballot. Melissa Lindsay has dedicated the past six years to the citizens of Morrow County. Her dedication, service, integrity and perseverance are unparalleled. Her tireless effort for the county she calls home and is devoted to is rare, and we are grateful for that service. Commissioner Lindsay has done her job, is ready to gracefully pass her seat to the newly elected commissioner in January and will undoubtedly continue to serve her communities in various ways. She has earned our respect and our trust...and our vote. We ask that you show your support for her and her work by voting no on the recall.

The Grieb Family
Lexington, OR

Keep Doherty, Lindsay as commissioners

Ballots are arriving in Morrow County for the recall of Jim Doherty and Melissa Lindsay. I strongly urge voters in Morrow County to vote to keep these individuals. Lindsay served the county in good faith, so terminating her on her way out is an unearned insult. Doherty has done his best to help find a true course for the community. The county has few people in it relative to the amount of industry, and we need leaders who are unafraid to take a stand for the folks who are too busy making things happen to speak up for themselves. Jim Doherty is doing his job. He may step on some toes, but that's a lot better than having a representative who sits on the sidelines and rubber stamps whatever is presented in pretty wrapping.

I've lived all over the Northwest, and Morrow County is the only place where I couldn't walk over to a hose connected to a well and drink out of it. There are a lot of people who are upset with Jim for trying to start to solve this problem, but he is right to have raised the red flag. Using taxpayer money to pay DEQ fines for years and continuing to pollute taxpayers' wells is wrong. Thank you, Jim. I hope folks will vote to keep you doing your job.

J Fletcher Hobbs
Boardman, OR

Hypocrisy and lies continue

The hypocrisy and lies just continue with Doherty and Lindsay.

I just read the flyer from Jim Doherty that says, if re-elected, he will continue his work with the "Loop Program." I just read the minutes for special transportation for the last two years and could not find where he has been to a meeting. No wonder the department head just resigned. I also read in Melissa's justification statement where she is taking credit for bringing in millions of dollars to fund fairgrounds and 4-H. Our State Representative Greg Smith is responsible for this. All 36 counties received fair-ground funding. Melissa is also taking credit for funding infrastructures for cities and grants for housing. These programs are funded by the CREZ and were in place before she was ever elected.

What Jim and Melissa are responsible for is threatened lawsuits against the county clerk's office for doing the legal requirements of her job. They are also responsible for retaliating against anyone who opposes them.

From the County Clerk's webpage:

"Voting is Confidential, if asked for a list of who voted their ballot, they will know that you returned your ballot, but will never know how or who you voted for."

If you feel like you are being harassed or threatened in any way, you may call the Secretary of State office to file a complaint at 971-369-4846 or email stephanie.l.darcy@sos.oregon.gov.

Don't be intimidated. Send them both packing.

John Wenholz
Irrigon, OR

Lindsay has earned respect and gratitude

Dear Editor,

As someone serving in planning capacities in Eastern Oregon, I appreciate one of the lesser-known state appointment committees Commissioner Lindsay serves on, the Local Officials Advisory Committee (LOAC), an advisory group to the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) of the Dept. of Land Use in Oregon.

As the only elected official from eastern Oregon, Commissioner Lindsay has advocated for issues important to Morrow County. Commissioner Lindsay's experience on the Morrow

County Planning Commission gave her valuable technical perspective, which she adeptly shared on LOAC. One example was her ability to educate LCDC about unique barriers to new housing development faced by small towns in remote areas. She is well respected by her peers on LOAC, as well as the LCDC. She has my respect and gratitude for the positive contribution she made on LOAC as well as her many other accomplishments as a county commissioner. Please join me in voting no on the recall.

Wayne Seitz
Heppner, OR

Lindsay is asset to the county

To the Editor,

We are writing this letter in support of Commissioner Melissa Lindsay and a "no" vote on the recall election.

Melissa Lindsay is an integral member of the Heppner community and Morrow County as a whole. Morrow County residents have benefited from her work and advocacy over the years, whether they realized it or not. We would like to highlight just a small portion of what she does for our communities. She spends hundreds of hours of her free time organizing funeral dinners to comfort grieving families out of the kindness of her heart. In work with the Heppner Community Foundation, she was instrumental in helping to obtain the Gilliam and Bisbee building to give Heppner an incredible place to host events and bring the community together. As another example that is not widely known, she recently obtained \$50,000 in grants for the Heppner Daycare, blowing previous grant raising marks out of the water to help this vital community resource. Commissioner Lindsay is an incredible asset, and we are lucky to have her. We are saddened to see residents of this county, witnesses to and beneficiaries of her work over the years, alienate another community member and waste thousands of much needed tax dollars on this recall.

Sincerely,
Keenan and Emily Jack
Stephen Thompson and
Charlie Dimke
Heppner, OR

Lindsay strong advocate for Morrow County

I would like to thank Commissioner Lindsay for her eight years of service as Morrow County Commissioner. I grew up in Morrow County and much of my family still resides there. I spend much of my time in the county, as a business owner, providing insurance services to hundreds of clients. My agency's primary focus is serving the agricultural market, and in this I have seen Commissioner Lindsay's strong advocacy for farmers, ranchers and the businesses who support this important economic and cultural facet of our region. I was also very appreciative of her response in fighting to re-open businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic. Commissioner Lindsay worked hard to unite all Eastern Oregon counties and commissioners in a common voice, which helped neighboring counties open as well. I feel she did a great job for Mor-

row County. Commissioner Lindsay, thank you for your service.

Luke Swanson
Hermiston, OR

No one wins in a recall

While never personally being the target of a recall election, I have had recalls touch my life through friends and family. My cousin was the target of a recall when he served on the Athena City Council.

What I have observed is that no one wins in a recall, especially in smaller rural communities. The hard feelings, animosity, broken relationships between families, can cause wounds that may never heal. It doesn't get to the level of the Hatfields and the McCoys, but sometimes it feels like it.

Which brings me to the reason for this letter to the editor, concerning the recall efforts in Morrow County of commissioners Jim Doherty and Melissa Lindsay. Both are members of multi-generational Morrow County farm families. With less than two months left in her term of office, a recall of Commissioner Lindsay seems to me to be mean-spirited and unnecessary.

Unless there is criminal behavior, or total neglect of duty, which I believe the recall provisions were created to address, the ballot box is the way to elect or unelect those in public office. In the case of Commissioner Lindsay, the voters have already made that decision. Morrow County voters would have the same opportunity for Commissioner Doherty in the next election.

Both Commissioners are hard-working individuals, with deep roots in Morrow County. Have reasonable people disagreed on actions or decisions made? Undoubtedly. Do they rise to the level of a recall? I think not.

Bill Hansell
State Senator District #29
Hermiston, OR

Nothing good can come from recall

Melissa Lindsay is one of the most well-qualified, successful and well-regarded county commissioners in the State of Oregon. I am dumbfounded there could possibly be a malicious effort underfoot to slap her in the face when she is less than two months away from leaving her position.

This is a Morrow County native who had a distinguished career in banking, is engaged with her husband in a major farming operation, and who has been involved in a wide variety of community events.

I'm not sure how many generations of Turners and Lindsays have been part of Morrow County, but I do know they are a family who deserve far more respect than is currently being accorded them.

I just read an article about the desperate need for public officials who are truthful, capable and have the courage to make the difficult decisions on behalf of the common good. It has been Morrow County's good fortune to have had Melissa and at this point she should be accorded the opportunity to step down with dignity.

Nothing good can come from this recall effort.

During my career with the ESD, as acting superintendent of the Morrow County and Ione School districts, and as editor and

publisher of the East Oregonian, I have had the opportunity to meet many wonderful Morrow County residents. Perhaps this is why I find myself disappointed and shocked that something like this could be happening.

George Murdock
Pendleton, OR

People doin' good things for good reasons

Our tax dollars have already been blown paying for the recall ballot.

I would like to see something positive come out of this disgrace. Anyone who has ever had the toughness to put themselves in front of the public will tell you it can be thankless, but this time it doesn't have to be. Melissa has shown strong leadership in the face of opposition many times. She never gave up on us—never.

Please join me in voting no on the recall for Melissa Lindsay and Jim Doherty. Melissa is at the end of her term in January, lets send her off with a big Thank You for her unselfish service to the citizens of Morrow County.

Vote no on recall.

Jerry Gentry
Heppner, OR

Recall is a shame

What a shame two of our hard-working commissioners are facing recall. Melissa Lindsay and Jim Doherty have worked tirelessly during their years of service to Morrow County. It is never easy to please all constituents, but it is indeed a sad thing when petty and personal grievances rise to the level of a recall which will cost thousands of dollars to the taxpayers.

Our community will miss the long hours of service and commitment to the betterment of Morrow County these two have contributed during their tenures.

Join us in voting no on the recall of commissioners Lindsay and Doherty.

Terry & Karen Thompson
Heppner, OR

Recall not the answer for Morrow County

Please join us in voting no on the recall of Melissa Lindsay. Melissa has worked tirelessly for Morrow County for many years. We truly believe she has put her heart and soul into the job of county commissioner, and as such has achieved numerous "wins" for all of Morrow County. She has been wholly committed to the job and thankfully she has been willing and able to ask hard questions, gather pertinent information and make hard and difficult decisions. Isn't that exactly what we should want in our County Commissioners?

While we've been blessed to have some great elected officials serve our County, at times it has been difficult to get qualified candidates to run for all elected offices. If they have to live under the threat of a recall when someone doesn't like decisions they've made, it will get more difficult, not less, to find qualified candidates to run for office.

Melissa is passionate about Morrow County and its citizens. Please don't punish a qualified, intelligent, honest, loyal, hard-working elected official for doing her job! Please join us and vote no on the recall

of Melissa Lindsay.

Thank you,
Steve & Lianne Currier
Heppner, OR

Speaking of Morrow County Ethics

The East Oregonian's article on Nov. 9 about Morrow County's recall election raised some serious alarm bells for me. Why is our county clerk fielding phone calls from citizens concerned about whether or not their vote is confidential? Are Morrow County voters being intimidated about voting in this election? If so, that is both a federal and state crime.

According to the Oregon Justice Resource Center (ojrc.info), unlawful voter intimidation can be committed by anyone, at any time or place. It includes the following guide to determining whether you have been a victim.

"How Do You Know If you're experiencing voter intimidation?"

There are many different forms of illegal voter intimidation. As a rule of thumb, if you are unsure of whether someone is illegally targeting you, use your best judgement and ask yourself these questions:

- Is this person making you feel afraid to vote, to register yourself or others to vote, or to support or advocate for a candidate? (This includes signing recall petitions and voting in recall elections)
- Is this person harassing you about voting or your voting activities?
- Is this person threatening you in some way?
- Would others also feel scared or coerced by this behavior?

If the answer to any of these questions is YES, it's likely that the person engaged in unlawful voter intimidation."

If you believe your rights have been violated, you should document it, then contact the Oregon Secretary of State Elections Division at 501-986-1518. This is not okay.

Lisa Rietmann
Ione, OR

Support For Lindsay

Dear Editor,

I am writing this letter to show my support and appreciation for Melissa Lindsay. I've known Melissa for many years and am writing to highlight the positivity she brings and the work she does for others in the Heppner community.

In addition to an incredibly busy schedule, she has taken on the important and sometimes daunting task of planning and organizing meals for memorial services for the families of members of the Heppner Elks Lodge. Two years ago, when my dad passed away, Melissa sat down with our family to discuss options and then took over the planning of the meal for the service. In doing so, she relieved a heavy burden for our family during our time of personal loss.

The community of Heppner has benefited from the generosity and countless hours Melissa has put into her community. She is valued and appreciated by so many. The Ward family, along with many others, are eternally grateful for her efforts.

Yours sincerely,
Sandra Ward Rice
Hermiston, OR

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