

~ 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.

**Recall aftermath**

Editor:  
In case you may be questioning what happened, or more importantly, what is about to happen in Morrow County with the recall of two commissioners: Here is the why, the how and the what comes next.

WHY. 1) Morrow County Commissioners Lindsay and Doherty were requiring changes for CREZ III. CREZ III is currently negotiating tax abatement for six new Amazon complexes. A) Lindsay and Doherty refused to ratify CREZ III without all cities of Morrow County included, not just Boardman. B) Lindsay and Doherty would not expand Bombing Range Road Amazon project for tax-free abatement because Amazon began construction without a S.I. P. (Strategic Investment Program) approval. This means this Amazon complex must pay full tax instead of current 15 percent. C) Lindsay and Doherty as county commissioners had to ratify CREZ III before it could be approved. D) Commissioner Lindsay was appointed lead county negotiator with Amazon for CREZ III. Lindsay was requiring Bonding and 50 percent tax abatement for the five new Amazon complexes. Once Lindsay was subject to a recall vote, the Port of Morrow refused to have her at the negotiating table. Now you know why Lindsay had to be recalled even though she lost the election.

2) Morrow County Commissioners Lindsay and Doherty would not sign a letter for Ambulance Transport for the Boardman Fire Department because the BFD never filed an application. The BFD wanted Lindsay and Doherty to circumvent the county's Emergency Medical Services Board and a letter of Documented Need required by the Oregon Health Authority. The Boardman Fire Department Chief Hughes led the recall effort to remove Lindsay and Doherty to gain county Ambulance Transport License approval instead of submitting to the regulatory process.

3) Lindsay and Doherty were holding the Port of Morrow accountable to build the anaerobic nitrogen digesters required from their 2017 DEQ license permit to curtail the nitrate contamination in local public wells and farmland. Instead, the Port spent over 20 million dollars to build multiple six-foot water lines transporting Morrow County water to farms in Umatilla County. With Lindsay, and especially Doherty, gone that pressure has been recalled.

4) Columbia Development Authority chair Don Russell was removed

and replaced by Commissioner Doherty after he subverted the regulatory process in an attempt to have the Port of Morrow and Umatilla control the property of the Umatilla Chemical Site. Doherty required equal management from both counties. Now that Doherty has been recalled, Rep. Greg Smith can establish an agenda favorable to his employer, the Port of Morrow (i.e. more CREZ tax abatement money from more Amazons).

So, the next question to be answered is HOW did this happen? Money buys elections. Money buys influence. Money buys power and position. The CREZ monopoly has \$10,000,000 to distribute how it pleases. Ten million dollars buys a lot of votes and persuasion and intimidation. I watched in Irrigon how the Port and CREZ used their money, their influence, their position to persuade, deceive and bully people into supporting their campaign to destroy two honorable public servants they knew nothing about. "Yes on the recall" signs were plastered everywhere. One prominent main street house had four. When I asked why, he admitted it does not mean he would vote that way. The Port of Morrow millionaire Windwave owners could easily spend a thousand for every dollar Doherty and Lindsay had to raise out of their own pocket. This recall was fixed from the get-go. No public servant, with a sound mind, will volunteer to serve our county in the future.

The most important question to be answered is: what will be the result of this recall?

1) No public hearted, honorable, citizen of integrity in Morrow County will volunteer to run for commissioner as long as CREZ, the Port of Morrow, Windwave, Rep. Greg Smith and prominent citizens in every city control our elections and abuse the recall process.

2) Will the new county commissioners require Amazon to pay bonding for our roads, schools and health care? Will the new commissioners require Amazon to pay a more fair share of tax abatement? Commissioner Lindsay was recalled largely because she was requiring 50 percent instead of 15 percent.

3) Will the new commissioners make sure all the cities of Morrow County receive a fair share of wealth distribution from Amazon through CREZ III?

4) Will the new commissioners allow the Boardman Fire District to receive an Ambulance Transport License without going through the regulatory process? Will the new commissioners strip MCHD of funding for their county

ambulance and medical services? Will medical emergency services be shattered for Morrow County under new commissioners?

5) Will the new commissioners require the Amazon Bombing Range road, already under construction with Windwave fiber optics, to pay full county taxes as required under current Strategic Investment Program law or will they cave to the Port and Windwave and allot a puny 15 percent tax abatement for CREZ III.

6) Will the new commissioners support equal county management for the Columbia Development Authority, or will they serve the Port of Morrow and their interests? Morrow County citizens and business have a huge stake in this decision.

7) Will the new commissioners allow Morrow County water, already at a critical level, to be pumped into Umatilla County, especially for more Amazon complexes? Will the new commissioners address the stress Amazon is putting on Morrow County water and power?

8) Will the new commissioners require the Port of Morrow to build the Anaerobic nitrogen digesters required by the DEQ permit to end or at least limit nitrate poisoning? Or will the feel-good band-aid of home filters and trucked water continue to bribe those families with poisoned well water?

9) Will the new commissioners allow special interests (Don Russell, Windwave, Jeff Wenholz, Umatilla Electric) to determine their position on decisions that impact all Morrow County citizens?

Either citizens of Morrow County hold those responsible for this recall travesty accountable or find another county or state to move to. I say draw a line in the sand because there is no place left.

Stuart Dick  
Irrigon, OR

**New Rules**

Sometimes it's hard to figure right from wrong. Everybody has an opinion and no matter what you do, there's always someone ready to let you know that you missed the mark. It seems to me that it's gotten even more difficult over the course of my lifetime. When I was young, rules were clear. Don't lie, cheat, steal, kill, talk back to your mom or smack your sibling. Cussing would get you a free bar of Dial soap, administered orally, and a trip to the woodshed. Spitting in public was also frowned upon. Yes, clear and concise...as were the consequences.

But times have certainly changed and the morals that Once Were have been hijacked. Though the origination of the new moral code is a little sketchy, I think it would behoove us all to at least try to get a handle on this new set of rules. So, in the spirit of inclusion, I would like to give the reader my best attempt at defining them.

**Current Moral Code:**

1. When describing someone, always point out their skin color. If you miss this one, you are a racist.
2. Recycle, drive electric and look to 15-year-olds for advice on how to save the planet.
3. Never assume that old pronouns still work.
4. Always apologize for your ancestor's actions, no matter how long ago. Understand that this apology will never actually be accepted. This is called reparation.
5. Do not consume dairy products. Cows should not have to lose their lives just so you can drink milk.
6. Do not own a gun of any kind because this causes school shootings.
7. Never call someone entering the country illegally an "illegal." And remember...walls are bad, and fentanyl is not a problem.
8. Never question vaccines, elections, taxes, inflation or the mental state of the president. This will make you a Conspiracy Theorist.
9. There are no "curse words." Freedom of speech is imperative.
10. Never use offensive terms like "Christian," "Jesus," and "Hell."
11. Trust the science, except biology.
12. Always fight for the rights of women, except for the ones in the womb.

You're welcome,  
Susie Crosby  
Heppner, OR

**Heppner FFA begins Greens workshop, adopts local families for Christmas**

It's that time of year again for the Heppner High School Ag students to have their Greens workshop. Anyone needing holiday décor to add to their door can order an evergreen centerpiece or wreath, candy cane or cross. Costs range from \$15 to \$30. Contact any Ag student with an order or reach out to FFA Advisor Beth Dickenson at 541-676-9138 or Elizabeth.Dickenson@morrow.k12.or.us. Orders need to be in by Thursday, Dec. 8, and decorations will be available for pickup between 1-4 p.m. Dec. 6-Dec. 8.

Heppner FFA is also continuing a long-standing tradition called Adopt a Family, in which the chapter will adopt a few families in the local community who could use a little assistance this Christmas.

The funds raised from the Greensburg shop go toward shopping for those families. Students will do their shopping this Saturday, Dec. 10, and then the FFA chapter members will finish wrapping them and get them delivered before the holidays.

This is the Heppner FFA chapter's 15<sup>th</sup> year adopting local families.

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The Heppner Gazette-Times wants to share the holiday spirit!  
Please send us photos of Christmas lights and decorations.  
We want to share the wondrous beauty of the season with our readers and spread some Christmas cheer.



Please send your photos to  
editor@rapidsolve.net

Include the city where the photo was taken.