

Candidates forum Morrow County Health District

-Continued from PAGE ONE

His critiques were incisive, blaming a poorly chosen CEO for losing “30 plus local employees and 500 plus clientele” and slamming the board’s “business model” as one that discards talent and evades accountability, perpetuating a failing status quo.

“Observe the current interim CEO, Mr. Burke... Leave him in that place for 90 days, 180 days. Get the right person,” he stated. “The failure to place a CEO with qualifications has... led us to losing 30 plus local employees and 500 plus clientele.”

He added, “The disconnect is when questions aren’t answered by the board.” Hanna also noted, “The North End... they want to see something for their tax dollar.” In his closing, he declared, “Two options: keep it the same... or change? I’m change.” He further said, “You have board members that are distancing themselves from failures.”

Laura Torres, who returned in 2024 and joined the MCHD board in January 2025, brings workforce development expertise. To fix the district, she proposes hiring an energetic CEO to foster positivity, creating internship programs to retain young talent, securing national grants to fund infrastructure and staffing, improving staff morale through better workplace policies, promoting North-South unity through youth engagement and community networking, and advocating for federal support to enhance rural healthcare.

She criticizes the “disconnect” in services and the board’s failure to support employee morale, which drives turnover.

“Identifying the right person, co-leader that will... infuse that positive, energetic, vibe... advocate nationally... funding grants,” she said. “The troublesome, the services, the disconnect that there is out there in our health care... infuriates me.” She asked, “Why are they not feeling they have a sense of belonging? Let’s look into that.”

Torres also proposed, “Activating our youth to kind of bridge that gap.” She added, “I want to be the eyes, the ears and the voice of South over in the North.”

Donna Rietmann, a 45-year farmer appointed in 2024, sees potential in the district’s clinics. To fix the district, she proposes hiring a permanent CEO to stabilize leadership, recruiting doctors for Heppner and Irrigon to expand services, holding inclusive meetings in northern communities to ensure representation, improving engagement through outreach to Boardman residents, leveraging existing facilities to attract patients, and fostering collaboration to move past election disputes.

She points to low northern attendance at meetings as disengagement and notes the board’s needs reach out to the north end.

“So many times I’ve seen... they don’t engage or they don’t even come to the meetings and we need to see them.” She added, “We’re really fortunate. We have a hospital... build upon that.”

Rietman also said, “We need to reach out to them wherever we can find a way to integrate with them.” She noted, “We cannot provide excellence without listening to people.” In her closing, she emphasized, “I do not consider myself part of the status quo... health care is the backbone of our community... we need strong leadership and a shared vision.”

Janet Greenup, born at Pioneer Memorial and running for position 3, holds

deep ties to the hospital. To fix the district, she proposes securing a permanent CEO, implementing quarterly financial reports for transparency, fostering board collaboration to streamline decisions, conducting exit interviews to understand staff losses, building trust through school outreach and community forums, and reviewing budget allocations to ensure equitable resource distribution.

She sees a “common denominator” in leadership failures, criticizing a toxic workplace with no exit interviews.

“Find a permanent CEO... finances... I want a quarterly report... work with the rest of the board,” she said. “There’s a common denominator here... what’s going on? Why is this happening?” She emphasized, “There’s no exit interviews... a hostile, toxic work environment.”

Greenup also noted, “A lot of people left because it was not a good environment.” She added, “Get to know them... build some trust.” In her closing, she said, “We’re on our way to a better health district.”

Molly Rhea, a nurse with 40 years’ experience running for position 2, seeks to calm community tensions. To fix the district, she proposes collaborating with the CEO to stabilize leadership, conducting anonymous employee surveys to address workplace issues, answering community questions openly, engaging face-to-face to resolve North-South divides, monitoring funding risks to protect services, and promoting a culture of transparency to rebuild trust.

She calls the district “shaky” due to the CEO’s resignation amid board conflicts, criticizing disruptive behaviors.

“Talk to the CEO... look at the employee surveys... answer questions,” she said. “It’s also shaky that our CEO felt she was forced to resign due to behaviors that were untoward.” She observed, “I’ve never seen a health district board with so many contestants.” Rhea also said, “It’s going to take legwork... to hear the people.” She added, “Increasing transparency... can build trust.”

Russ Nichols, a healthcare veteran also running for position 2, aims to strengthen programs like home health, fix weaknesses, and ensure fiscal responsibility. To fix the district, he proposes supporting successful services like home health and hospice, addressing operational flaws through

detailed reviews, improving financial oversight to allocate resources efficiently, creating a welcoming workplace to attract providers, engaging the community to understand needs, and leveraging his healthcare expertise to guide decisions. He criticizes a “not friendly” workplace where “people are scared,” blaming an oversized administration.

“Find the things that are currently... working well... home health and hospice... find the things... not doing well... financial responsibility,” he said. “Currently, this is not a friendly place to work. People are actually scared to work here.” He noted, “There’s just a pile of them and we have four providers.”

Nichols also said, “I’ve been lucky enough... to be approached by hundreds of community members... who are concerned.” He added, “I know a lot about all the aspects of clinics, hospitals.” In his closing, he emphasized, “I actually became a doctor... to go work in Heppner.”

Annetta Spicer, an attorney in the county for 48 years, left the district due to access issues. To fix the district, she proposes fully staffing clinics with permanent doctors, defining administrative roles to reduce bloat, creating accessible and readable budgets, prioritizing local hires to strengthen community ties, fostering county unity through cooperative models like the library district, and improving service access to prevent residents from seeking care elsewhere.

She laments the absence of full-time doctors and local ER staff, faulting the board for unclear budgets and excess administration.

“Get a complete staff in the county... write the job descriptions for the administrative employees... budget both accessible and readable,” she said. “We don’t have any doctors in the district right now that are... manning the clinic on a full-time basis.” She added, “Not a single person up there was... from Morrow County.” Spicer also stressed, “We’re here to provide as good of care as we can.” She noted, “Everybody worked for the benefit of the entire district.”

In her closing, she said, “Who on the board is going to be able to work together to accomplish the goals?”

Scott Ezell, a firefighter and EMT, is driven by commitment to Morrow County. To fix the district, he proposes hiring a highly

qualified CEO, forming partnerships with other hospitals to share resources, tightening financial controls to ensure sustainability, ensuring merit-based rehiring to maintain standards, enhancing community trust through strong leadership, and setting high operational goals to elevate services.

He disputes unfair firing claims, suggesting some staff left for reasons “not something they were proud of,” and critiques the board’s financial oversight.

“Top three stability, resources and finances... find somebody that has the most qualifications... look at our existing resources... tighten our belt,” he said. “Some of those reasons were not something they were proud of and maybe didn’t share with you.” He stressed, “Just because you live here doesn’t entitle you to anything... earn that job.”

Ezell also noted, “We have to find somebody that you guys are going to like.” He added, “I want our health district to be world class.” In his closing, he said, “There’s people that are riding anger.”

The forum concluded with a shared resolve to renew the district, each candidate’s voice adding depth to a collective vision for change.

Seastone’s financial clarity, Hanna’s sharp accountability, Torres’s innovative outreach, Rietman’s practical optimism, Greenup’s truth-seeking, Rhea’s steady wisdom, Nichols’s healthcare expertise, Spicer’s transparency, and Ezell’s community focus offered diverse, actionable solutions.

Their critiques—of leadership missteps, workplace challenges, and fractured trust—were out in front.

As the election nears, Morrow County faces a pivotal choice for a path toward a stronger healthcare future.

PUBLIC NOTICE

-Continued from page 4

obtained on or after the 1st day of May, 2025 at 911 SW Tatone Street. Please call (541) 481-3473 between the hours of 9:00 am and 4:00 pm for arrangements. This is a public meeting where deliberation of the Budget Committee will take place. Any person may appear at the meeting and discuss the proposed programs with the Budget Committee.

Published April 16, 30, 2025

The Town of Lexington is now accepting letters of interest for Lexington Town Council Position 4. Letters of interest can be emailed to lexington.oregon@gmail.com or turned into the Lexington Town Hall on Monday – Thursday from 8:00am – 5:00pm, any questions can be directed to Town Recorder Autumn Crumpton (541) 989-8515. February 5, 2025 utf

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF MORROW Probate Department In the Matter of the Estate of: **PATRICIA F. WALKER, NOTICE Deceased.** Date of Death: February 11, 2025 No. 25PB02373 **NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS** Notice is given that the undersigned

has been appointed and has qualified as the personal representative of the estate. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present it, with proper vouchers, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice, as stated below, to the personal representative at Kuhn Law Offices, 267 N. Main Street, P.O. Box 428, Heppner, Oregon 97836, or they may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings in this estate may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative or the attorney for the personal representative. **DAT-ED** and first published April 9, 2025. Signed by:

Signed by: **KANDICE SALOMONE**
71FB0E1E3D17483

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE: Kandice Salomone 2 Roundys Hill Marblehead, MA 01945 **ATTORNEY FOR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE:** William J. Kuhn, OSB No. 762075 P.O. Box 428 Heppner, OR 97836 Telephone: 541-676-9141 FAX: 541-676-5502 Email: klo@kuhnlawoffices.com Published April 16, 23, 30 2025 Affid 3c

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FORM LB-1 NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

A public meeting of the lone Lexington Cemetery Maintenance District will be held on May 12, 2025 at 11:00 am at lone Rural Fire District Hall, 150 W Main, lone, OR. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 as approved by the lone Lexington Cemetery Maintenance District Budget Committee. A summary of the budget is presented below. A copy of the budget may be inspected or obtained at Bank of Eastern Oregon 280 Main St, lone OR, between the hours of 9:00 am and 4:00 pm or email for a copy at lonelexcemdist@gmail.com. This budget is for an annual budget period. This budget was prepared on a basis of accounting that is the same as the preceding year.

Contact: Laurie Barrow Secretary-Treasurer Telephone: (541)379-0608 Email: IONELEXCEMDIST@GMAIL.COM

TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS	FINANCIAL SUMMARY - RESOURCES		Adopted Budget	Approved Budget
	Actual Amount 2023-2024	2024-2025	This Year 2024-2025	Next Year 2025-2026
Beginning Fund Balance/Net Working Capital	\$254,780.15	\$200,000.00	\$200,000.00	\$164,000.00
Fees, Licenses, Permits, Fines, Assessments & Other Service Charges	\$7,507.73	\$6,500.00	\$6,500.00	\$7,500.00
Interfund Transfers	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
All Other Resources Except Current Year Property Taxes	\$17,613.07	\$12,400.00	\$12,400.00	\$20,500.00
Current Year Property Taxes Estimated to be Received	\$105,694.75	\$109,000.00	\$109,000.00	\$108,000.00
Total Resources	\$385,995.70	\$327,900.00	\$327,900.00	\$300,000.00

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - REQUIREMENTS BY OBJECT CLASSIFICATION	FINANCIAL SUMMARY - REQUIREMENTS AND FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT EMPLOYEES (FTE) BY ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT OR PROGRAM *			
	Actual Amount 2023-2024	2024-2025	2024-2025	2025-2026
Personnel Services	\$41,703.73	\$61,000.00	1	1
Materials and Services	\$13,527.10	\$53,900.00	N/A	N/A
Capital Outlay	\$0.00	\$70,000.00	1	1
Interfund Transfers	\$42,000.00	\$60,000.00	1	1
Contingencies	\$0.00	\$50,000.00	1	1
Unappropriated Ending Balance and Reserved for Future Expenditure	\$0.00	\$33,000.00	1	1
Total Requirements	\$97,230.83	\$327,900.00	1	1

PROPERTY TAX LEVIES	Rate or Amount Imposed 2023-2024	Rate or Amount Imposed This Year 2024-2025	Rate or Amount Imposed Next Year 2025-2026
	Permanent Rate Levy (rate limit .2401 per \$1,000)	.2401	.2401
Local Option Levy	0	0	0
Levy For General Obligation Bonds	0	0	0

STATEMENT OF INDEBTEDNESS	
LONG TERM DEBT	Estimated Debt Outstanding on July 1, 2024
	\$0
	Estimated Debt Authorized, But Not Incurred on July 1, 2024
	\$0
Total Amount Borrowed Any Source	\$0

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Form OR-ED-NBC Notice of Budget Committee Meeting
Oregon Department of Revenue

A Use this notice if public comment will be taken at this meeting.

A public meeting of the Budget Committee of the Town of Lexington (District name) Morrow (County), State of Oregon, to discuss the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026, will be held at Lexington Town Hall (Location) a.m. p.m. 425 F Street (Address) The meeting will take place on May 14, 2025 (Date) at 6:00 (Time)

The purpose of the meeting is to receive the budget message and to receive comment from the public on the budget. This is a public meeting where deliberation of the Budget Committee will take place. Any person may appear at the meeting and discuss the proposed programs with the Budget Committee.

A copy of the budget document may be inspected or obtained on or after May 9, 2025 (Date) at Lexington Town Hall (Location) a.m. p.m. between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Published April 30, 2025 1c

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