

# New faces join races for Morrow County commission

Hermiston Herald

Both seats on the Morrow County Board of Commissioners up for election this year will be heavily contested. Position 2 incumbent Melissa Lindsay switched to the open Position 3 race and will face competition from Jeff Wenholtz of Irrigon. Wenholtz, who lists himself as self-employed, serves on a number of volunteer

committees for the county, including Morrow County's planning commission, budget committee and solid waste advisory committee. Lindsay, the owner of Turner Ranch in Heppner, was elected to a special six-year term as Morrow County government was transitioning from a court-style government to a board of commissioners. Lindsay was elected judge but was

sworn in as a commissioner for Position 3 and is now up for a standard four-year term for Position 3. The son of former Morrow County Judge Terry Tallman, Jonathan Tallman of Boardman dropped out of the race for Position 3 ahead of the filing deadline. He made a couple of runs at local offices before, having lost races for Boardman mayor in 2020 and Port of Morrow commis-

sioner in 2021. Position 2 was an open race due to the retirement of incumbent Commissioner Don Russell, but Lindsay's switch meant Position 3 became the truly open race. Three men are competing to fill the void. Mike McNamee is an Irrigon farmer with experience serving on the Morrow County Soil & Water Conservation District. Gus

Peterson is an Ione farmer who graduated from Oregon State University in 2020, and David Sykes is a Heppner business owner who operates publishing and real estate companies. Because there are only two candidates in the field, Morrow County voters will decide between Lindsay and Wenholtz for Position 3 during the May 17 primary. In the three-way race for

Position 2, the winner will need to amass more than 50% of the vote to avoid a runoff held during the Nov. 8 general election. The only other county-wide race on the ballot is for county assessor. Incumbent Mike Gorman is running unopposed, and because the position is considered a constitutional office, his name won't appear on the ballot until November.



Erick Peterson/Hermiston Herald  
A toppled and burned mobile home sits in Irrigon on Thursday, March 10, 2022, days after a fire.

## Investigation ends with no known cause of Irrigon home fire

By ERICK PETERSON  
Hermiston Herald

Fire officials do not know the cause of a fire late Monday night, March 7, that destroyed a mobile home in Irrigon. Mike Hughes, Boardman Fire Rescue District chief, said when firefighters arrived they found the fire to be "fully involved," meaning the fire and smoke were so great firefighters could not enter the structure until water was placed on it. According to the chief, the fire was threatening three other structures. "Irrigon Fire and Boardman Fire basically surrounded the fully involved structure and protected the other ones from igniting," he said. He added that Umatilla

Rural Fire Protection District also helped put "a good stop" on the fire and prevented it from torching other structures. "There were no civilian injuries or firefighter injuries," the chief said, but the mobile home was "fully destroyed." Hughes and Deputy State Fire Marshal Casey Kump said they do not know the cause of the fire. Kump said there was an investigation in which experts were brought in to determine a cause. They did not, Kump said, find any reason to think it was arson that started the blaze. There was no insurance covering the property, Kump said, so his office will not investigate the fire any further.



**PRIORITIES**  
A hundred years from now it will not matter what My bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove... but the world may be different because I was important in the Life of a Child.

**RECYCLE!**  
CARDBOARD • NEWSPAPER • GLASS • TIN • ALUMINUM  
EIGHT LOCATIONS TO SERVE YOU!

SANITARY DISPOSAL  
TRANSFER  
STATION  
RECYCLING  
DEPOT

1. Hermiston - 220 W. Harper Rd.
2. Stanfield - W. Wood (by Grange Hall)
3. Echo - 321 W. Main St. (next to Fire Hall)
4. Umatilla - Hwy 730 (next to Columbia Harvest Foods)
5. Umatilla County - Hwy 395 N. (next to transfer station)
6. Umatilla County - 81144 N. Hwy 395
7. Irrigon - 198 W. Columbia Lane
8. Boardman - NW Columbia Ave

**COMPOSTING**  
Compost holds nutrients in the soil until plants can use them. Loosens and aerates clay soils and retains water in sandy soil. More information about composting is available from Oregon DEQ at: [www.oregon.gov/DEQ](http://www.oregon.gov/DEQ)

**Sanitary Disposal, Inc.**  
Hermiston/McNary Hwy • Hermiston  
541-567-8842

## Three Hermiston chess players are going to state following successful tourney

Hermiston Herald

Hermiston students had a big day at a recent tournament, according to chess club volunteer Delia Fields. According to Fields, who is also the Hermiston School District librarian, highlights included excellent play from a young strategist, as well as a trio of high schoolers who took big victories to earn their way to the state competition next month in Portland. Beau Neddo, a second grader at West Park Elementary, played well, scoring 4.5 points in the five rounds of match play to become the top Region 23 player for grades kindergarten through fourth grade. Baker City had several students score well and third grader Sylvia Rich was the top player for Region 24, scoring 3.5 points. Baker City had the winning elementary and middle school teams. Neddo will represent Hermiston elementary youth on April 9 when other individual qualifiers from other regions



Hermiston High School/Contributed Photo  
Students compete in the Hermiston High School library for the Region 23 Chess for Success tournament on Feb. 26.

meet at the Expo Center in Portland for the statewide competition. The older local contingency will be three Hermiston High School players who each scored four points in match play on Saturday to wind up in a three-way tie

for overall Region 23 grades 9-12 champion. There is no team option at the high school level, so the stakes are high for the players because usually only one overall regional champion gets to advance. Sophomores Luke Gray

and Elijah Robinson and junior Pride Shelley will play at the state contest for two days, April 8 and 9, because for the high school division, match play is divided over two days, three matches on Friday and two matches on Saturday.

**\$130,000 TOYOTA TRUCK SUPERHERO GIVEAWAY**

Win up to **\$1,000 CASH** and your entry to win a **2022 Toyota Tacoma!**  
Drawings every Friday and Saturday, 6-9pm

**ENTRY MULTIPLIER**  
Win up to **5X** Entries every Wednesday!  
Swipe at an e-STATION to activate. **March 26**  
Actual truck model and color may vary. **ROGERS TOYOTA OF HERMISTON**

**DAB YOUR CALENDAR**  
Grab a friend and join us for bingo!

Visit [wildhorsesort.com](http://wildhorsesort.com) for monthly bingo schedule.

CASINO • HOTEL • GOLF • CINEPLEX • RV MUSEUM • DINING • TRAVEL PLAZA • FUNPLEX  
800.654.9453 • PENDLETON, OR • I-84, EXIT 216 • [wildhorsesort.com](http://wildhorsesort.com) • Owned and operated by CTUIR  
Management reserves all rights to alter, suspend or withdraw promotions/offers at any time. CAT11162-3

**WILDHORSE RESORT & CASINO**