

Hermiston HERALD OPINION & READER'S FORUM

Founded in 1906

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A4

OUR VIEW

Non-presidential elections matter so please vote

Please vote. Ballots went out last week for the May 17 primary election, giving us options for who we wish to represent us at various levels of government.

In the 2020 election, 71.95% of eligible people in Umatilla County voted, according to the county elections office. A representative of that office, though, said the vote total is smaller in non-presidential elections, like the one ending later this month.

We have choices up and down the ballot for various positions, including city councilor, county commissioners, governor and U.S. senator.

These positions matter. When they assume office, these people will make decisions that impact us, our families and our money. The people should, then, align with our values and share our interests.

One example of how officeholders respond to us came in a recent meeting of the Hermiston City Council. At that meeting, local landowners approached the council and pointed out an issue related to a city project. The landowners said it was unfair that their required



A voter places a ballot into a drop box on Nov. 3, 2020, in Hermiston. Ben Lonergan/Hermiston Herald, File

payment was as high as it was.

In this example, the council heard them and pressed the city to contribute

more to the project, thereby reducing fees to landowners.

The council deliberates on many

other issues in every meeting. Other boards and officials, likewise, decide on other important issues. Power lines, roads, buildings and more rise and fall on the decisions of our representatives. By choosing candidates who are most favorable to us, we increase the likelihood of getting more satisfactory outcomes from their decisions.

The Hermiston City Council, alone, has four seats up for grabs. Three of those open positions give us a choice of candidates; only one incumbent is running unopposed.

For many of us who live in Hermiston, the candidates are familiar faces. Incumbents and challengers are our neighbors, friends and acquaintances, and we know where they stand on issues.

When any candidates are unknown, we have the opportunity to do research. We can look up their backgrounds, see what they have done, read of what they want to do and then vote accordingly.

Our elections are too important to do otherwise.

COLUMN

Living as a lefty leaves me soaked

Recent surgery leaves columnist fumbling through using tools with her off hand



TAMMY MALGESINI
IN MY SHOES

I've recently been forced to use my non-dominant hand for everyday tasks. I have minimal skills with being ambidextrous, however, after having surgery on my right hand/elbow, I have learned a number of life hacks (as well as things not to do).

I've utilized voice-to-text as much as I can. Since I don't like to talk into my phone in normal conversational tones, I use what friends call my "golf commentator" voice. I talk quietly, so as not to blast my private communications to everyone within earshot.

One problem — I don't always enunciate my words. While it's easy to make corrections before hitting send, I don't always do that. Luckily, my friends have a sense of humor. We've chuckled over some of the communications, which aren't appropriate for the newspaper.

Often referring to myself in the third person in texts to my husband, I use an abbreviated form of my nickname, Bwana. "The Bwan" is often transcribed as "The blonde" (which is accurate, thanks to my hairdresser) or "The One" — making it sound like I have an overinflated sense of self-importance: "The One is ready to be picked up."

John also has been my chauffeur. While I can't readily put the rig into gear, the bigger issue is getting in my Jeep. Utilizing a step stool, I climb onto the running board, grab the "oh my god bar" and pull myself in. However, the stool remains on the ground. I'm thinking of tying a rope

around it so I can reel it in.

Although I'm far from ambidextrous, I might qualify for being amphibian. Unlike former Oakland Athletics baseball player Pat Venditte, who was once referred to as an "amphibious pitcher," some of my efforts have left me drenched.

While trying to open a bottle of water, I had it situated between my feet. As I attempted to turn the cap, my feet clenched the bottle ever tighter — resulting in a geyser reminiscent of Old Faithful.

Upon hearing this story, my co-workers check to see if I need anything before leaving for the day. Although, Hermiston Herald editor Erick Peterson thought I was offering him a Pepsi when I merely wanted him to open it.

While the help is greatly appreciated, they are gaining a more intimate knowledge of my habits. Multimedia consultant Angel Aguilar asked how many Pepsis I consume daily. "Enough," I said. "Don't judge me." Since I also drink a lot of water, my massive liquid consumption results in frequent visits to the facilities. And that makes choosing my attire very important.

A friend recently suggested that I looked "gangster." I can't help it — baggy shorts are easier to manipulate than tight-fitting pants. And with limited abilities to style my hair, my hat collection is coming in handy. And I often prefer wearing them backward.

Fortunately, Sen. Ron Wyden wasn't dressed to the nines when

he visited the newsroom recently. He, too, was wearing a baseball hat, although not backwards. We shared a laugh about how the late Hermiston Mayor Frank Harkner used to wear his caps precariously perched on the top of his head.

I'd like to provide a public service announcement for those who might have surgery where they utilize a nerve block. While I received a printout from the surgical center about the risks associated with taking prescription opioids, they didn't stress the importance of getting some pain medication on board in advance of the nerve block wearing off.

I'd never had one before, so I didn't know what to expect. I literally went from zero pain to off the charts approximately 24 hours after surgery. And evidently, some nerve blocks last longer than others. Annie Fowler, the EO sports reporter, called my nerve block "wimpy," as the one she had during shoulder surgery lasted three days.

In addition to preparing my meals, John also cuts my food into bite-sized pieces. Don't worry, there isn't a risk of starving.

Back during my college days, my roomies and I ate T-bone steaks with our hands because we forgot steak knives. I happily reported in our Tuesday newsroom meeting that I ate 25% of my dinner with the fork in my right hand. While the road to recovery is slow — my surgeon said nerves regenerate at a rate of one inch per month — I'm looking forward to when I'm able to grip a pen and hold a camera.

■ *Tammy Malgesini, the Hermiston Herald community editor, enjoys spending time with her husband and two German shepherds, as well as entertaining herself with random musings.*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Susan Bower will do what's best for all residents

Please join us in voting for Susan Bower for Umatilla County commissioner Position 1. Susan is a dedicated, hardworking professional who will always do what is best for all the residents of Umatilla County.

Susan is a great communicator with the background and skill-set to ensure that Umatilla County is front and center when it comes to economic growth and a business friendly environment.

Susan has a passion to see that Umatilla County expands and grows to its potential. As a county commissioner, we believe she will use that passion and knowledge to benefit our county.

Please vote Susan Bower for county commissioner.

Colleen and Dennis Hunt
Pendleton

Reelect Lindsay for Morrow County Commissioner

Please join us in voting to reelect Melissa Lindsay for Morrow County commissioner.

Melissa has worked tirelessly for the last five-and-a-half years as a Morrow County commissioner; she has been present and committed to the job, spending countless hours representing and working on behalf of the county.

Growing up on the family farm and spending the majority of her adult life here, she understands Morrow County's uniqueness, its strengths, weaknesses and its complexities. She is honest, trustworthy, not afraid to put in the work and is always striving to do what's in the best interest for Morrow County and its citizens. She listens, is intelligent, wants to learn about issues and more importantly she is willing to ask tough questions in order to find a solution that works.

Melissa lives and breathes her commitment, which we think makes her an excellent choice for the job of Morrow County commissioner.

Steve and Lisanne Currin
Heppner

Susan Bower has Umatilla County's best interest at heart

Susan Bower is a strong candidate for county commissioner Position 1.

She is a highly competent individual with a vast business and economic background, which will help her understand the complexities of county government. Her expertise in workforce development and firsthand experience in reducing redundancy in government and business operations add to her qualifications.

Susan has the desire and tenacity to research and familiarize herself with the full aspect of the commissioner position be it infrastructure, required services, homelessness, drugs, vaccines or mental health issues. She is a team player, but one who is willing to take charge and work in a transparent method when the situation merits.

In the best interest of Umatilla County, I invite you to join me in voting for Susan Bower.

Bonnie Douglas
Pendleton

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CORRECTIONS

It is the policy of the Hermiston Herald to correct errors as soon as they are discovered. Incorrect information will be corrected on Page A2. Errors committed on the Opinion page will be corrected on that page. Corrections also are noted in the online versions of our stories. Please contact the editor at editor@hermistonherald.com or call 541-278-2673 with issues about this policy or to report errors.

SUBMIT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Letters Policy: Letters to the Editor is a forum for the Hermiston Herald readers to express themselves on local, state, national or world issues. Brevity is good, but longer letters should be kept to 250 words. No personal attacks; challenge the opinion, not the person. The Hermiston Herald reserves the right to edit letters for

length and for content. Letters must be original and signed by the writer or writers. Anonymous letters will not be printed. Writers should include a telephone number so they can be reached for questions. Only the letter writer's name and city of residence will be published.

OBITUARY POLICY

The Hermiston Herald publishes paid obituaries; death notices and information about services are published at no charge. Obituaries can include small photos and, for veterans, a flag symbol at no charge. Obituaries and notices may be submitted online at hermistonherald.com/obituaryform, by email to obits@hermistonherald.com, placed via the funeral home or in person at the Hermiston Herald or East Oregonian offices. For more information, call 541-966-0818 or 800-522-0255, ext. 2211.

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