

# Smith attacks Ullman's tax spending record

By Steven A. Powell

Republican candidate for the 2nd Congressional District Denny Smith attacked incumbent Al Ullman and especially Ullman's value added tax (VAT) during his visit to Heppner last Saturday.

Smith spoke to a group of about 25 persons at the Elks Lodge in Heppner.

"We (the United States) have spent our way to prosperity for 50 years but this deficit spending is going to lead to the destruction of our way of life," Smith warned.

"Al Ullman is the chief taxwriter in the country (as chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee) and he is responsible for all these mixed up taxes.

"He talks one way in Oregon and votes another in Washington (D.C.) We need a change in leadership."

Smith said he has collected \$115,000 from 4,000 contributors while Ullman has large donors from out of state. Smith has been campaigning

since August 1 full time in the 21-county district.

We do not need new taxes like the VAT but less spending and involvement from government. Smith said. Taxes have doubled the last four years and the amount of paperwork in government is tremendous.

Smith said the VAT is complicated but it is like a national sales tax on the value added to a product by each part of industry. The last time Oregon voters voted on a sales tax, they voted it down eight to one so Ullman is not listening to his home state, Smith said.

Smith added that he wonders why Ullman is voting to balance the federal budget in this, an election year. He had a chance to vote for a balanced budget last year and he voted the other way. The only time the budget has balanced in the last 20 years was in 1969.

"The rate of inflation at 18 percent is killing us," Smith said. "We have to learn we

cannot just manufacture money on the printing press."

Smith has not been involved in politics before because he said he has been busy as chairman of Eagle Newspapers, Inc based in Salem.

Smith favors more limitations on the terms of government officials.

He said the president should serve one six-year term, senators two six-year terms and representatives up to four two-year terms.

"If we change the terms, we will have more citizen involvement and fewer professional politicians," Smith said.

Smith said he thought "Fort Fumble and Mr. Carter" would get the interest rate down "in time for the election" but they even "blew that."

"We are number one in the world and people forget how we got here," Smith said.

"Excess paperwork is not needed and deregulation is needed in a lot of areas.

"That is the problem with government. People on the eastern seaboard are trying to run things out here."

On the subject of agriculture, Smith said the "best thing to do is to get government out of it. Why was the U.S. government involved in selling wheat to Russia? Why isn't it the decision of the free private enterprise market?"

"I am not going to solve all the ills of the past but we have got to change the people involved in the law-making process," Smith concluded.

Morrow County Republican Committee Chairman Steve Peck of Lexington said Smith will return to Heppner in a few months.

At the luncheon were Merle Cantin and Jim Brooks, county commissioner hopefuls; Pauline Winter and Alice Vance, county clerk nominees; Marv Martin, county treasurer candidate; and Bud Engert, who is running as a write-in candidate for sheriff.



Denny Smith (left) is welcomed to Morrow County last Saturday by his county chairman, Ken Turner in front of Smith's plane.

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HEPPNER, OREGON

### Weather by Don Gilliam

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### Heppner runner takes 1,200 place in Boston

Although he does not know his official standing, Heppner Grade School teacher Andy Clark said Monday that he finished about 1,200 out of the 5,400 official runners at the Boston Marathon April 21.

"When I crossed the finish line I looked up and saw 2:57 which is slower than my qualifying time (2:42) by quite a bit but under the circumstances, I was pleased," Clark said.

The circumstances included 80-degree weather, a hilly course, crowded running conditions and a million-and-one-half spectators.

"It was extremely hot on the course," he said. "The heat with the sun beating down was my main worry. The end of the race was a bad scene with many injured and sick."

Clark said the spectators were "great" but they did cause some problems.

"It was really crowded the last 10 miles," he said. "The runners literally had to almost walk single file when the crowd pushed its way onto the course."

One aspect of the crowd, Clark really enjoyed.

"Every two feet they would have water or oranges for the runners," Clark said. "That was neat. I ate far too many oranges though. I usually don't eat any during a race."



Andy Clark

And yes—they did peel them."

Clark said "Heartbreak Hill," which is actually four hills in a five-mile span, was the toughest part of the course.

He said he did not stay for the crowning of champion Bill Rodgers, who ran the 26 miles and 385 yard course in 2:12, because he wanted to spend most his time there with his relatives.

Clark qualified for the Boston spectacular by running the Portland Marathon last year in 2:42.

## Voters to pass on \$430,000 water project

A \$430,000 water project bond to be paid back during a 40-year period will be on the ballot for City of Heppner voters May 20.

City councilman Clifford Green explained the need for the project at the Chamber of Commerce meeting Monday.

Green said the bond will be purchased by the Farmer's Home Administration at 5 1/2 percent interest. He said plans have not been made on how

the city will pay back the debt but it will probably involve a combination of raising water rates and city taxes.

"The timing is lousy because we will be voting on the schools and county budgets but the water project bond is just as important as the city budget to us (the city council)," Green said.

The water line from the Dick Wilkenson place on Willow Creek to town is more

than 40-years-old and it needs to be replaced, Green said.

He added the eight inch line will be replaced by a 10 inch line that can handle more pressure and volume to meet the greater demand for water that is expected to be needed within the city.

"We have plenty of water (in city wells)," Green said. "The trouble is getting it here."

Another part of the project

is to have a high pressure line under the city reservoir by the cemetery across town to above the hospital, Green said. That area is currently being served by an old well that has low pressure and volume. In fact, the one fire hydrant in the area has only 18 pounds of pressure to it. It will have a pressure reducing valve so it will not blow the plumbing in the area.

The third part of the \$430,000

project is \$60,000 to renovate or replace the Thorpe Well on Balm Fork.

"If we suck it dry, it will fall

in on us," Green said. He said city engineers are studying to see if it is more

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Clifford Green ponders about the holes in the pipe of the city water system.

### Spending 'freeze' may delay Willow dam

By Steven A. Powell

A "freeze" on spending for the U.S. Corps of Engineers may delay the land acquisition phase for the Willow Creek Dam project, Dug Dugger, Corps public affairs officer, said Monday.

But despite the expected delay, the Corps of Engineers was in Heppner last week gathering rock samples to use to make concrete for a model dam of the one scheduled to be built in Heppner.

The model is being built at the Corps' Troutdale lab near Portland. It will be 600 feet long and will be built from the same materials from the Heppner quarry site that the real dam will be made of.

"We have to have the right mix to make sure the dam

does not fall down," Dugger said with a chuckle.

Dugger said shot blasting will begin this week to break up rock. Trucks will haul the material to Troutdale.

Surveying was also being done last week to aid the land appraisals, Dugger said. "We were ready to purchase some land when we got this temporary freeze," Dugger said.

He said the Corps country-wide is overspending its appropriations for what has been budgeted.

"Everybody is having budget problems and so are we," he said.

Corps contractors across the United States have done rush jobs hiring an extra work

force in an effort to beat inflation, he said. With the Corps money left in the budget, priorities are being made on how it is going to be spent.

The Corps can currently spend up to \$25,000 for a real estate transaction.

"We can buy some land but not much for that," Dugger said.

He added that not much land will probably be purchased

until Oct. 1 when the new Corps budget is formulated.

"When the new money is available, we will go like heck in making purchases providing the money is available," Dugger said.

Dugger said the Corps cannot forecast how President Jimmy Carter will prioritize the federal government spending. But he did say people in

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### Committee cuts Heppner budget request by \$45,187

The City of Heppner budget committee cut the city budget \$45,187 and will submit a request to the Heppner voters for \$74,050 outside the six percent limitation at the June 24 election.

Voters turned down a request for \$122,842 outside the six percent limitations at the March 25 election.

Because of the cuts, street lighting in all residential areas, except intersections, will be eliminated. It will cut that portion of the budget from \$12,000 to \$9,000.

Also cut were materials and supplies for all city departments, repairs and street paving.

Committee member and city councilman Clifford Green said because of increased electricity rates that portion of the budget had a high percentage increase so they decided some of it should be cut. He added that police and other city employees will have a reduced gas allowance.

Green said the committee did not make its cuts in time to

certify it at the county clerk's office by the deadline so it will not be on the May 20 primary ballot.

The budget committee has now cut the budget \$101,155 since it was first formulated in the budget requests.

Committee member George Koffler said cuts were made that the committee did not want to make but felt it had to because of how badly the first budget was defeated.

Koffler, Green and City Administrator Marshall Lovgren stressed the point that all

of the committee members agreed that no more cuts should be made.

Members of the city budget committee are Koffler, Green, Frank Pearson, Ronald Forrar, Warren Plocharsky, Joe Miller, Robert Laughlin, A.K. Felt, Glen Ward, Allen Nistad, Ken Miller and Rita Hedman.

According to Lovgren, an updated estimate from the county treasurer added some funds to the estimated cash forward as of June 30, which will help to reduce the tax levy.

### Kinzua shelves power plant over 'tight money'

A \$45,000 study done by a Seattle consulting firm shows that construction of a wood-waste-fired electricity and steam cogeneration plant in Heppner is feasible.

But Kinzua General Manager Harry Kennison said, "With money as tight as it is at the present, it will not be pursued. If money gets cheaper to borrow, we will take a look at it."

The Schuchart and Associ-

ates study, paid for by Kinzua Corp. and Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative locally and also Bonneville Power Administration and the Electric Power Research Institute, states that the cost of power from mill residue from the Kinzua lumber mill in Heppner would be competitive with other alternative sources of electricity.

Cost of producing power would range from 43 to 51

mills per kilowatt-hour depending on the size of the plant, according to CBEC Manager Fred Toombs.

A six-megawatt plant would cost about \$14.3 million to build, a 12-megawatt plant would cost 26.5 million and a 24-megawatt plant \$40 million.

"The project is as good as I am concerned," Kennison said. "It needs to be done. Finances just have to be worked out. There are many

ways we could do it. It could be a joint agreement between Columbia Basin and Kinzua. But financing is just not available."

The legislature is looking at BPA to use as a vehicle for federal grant money for the transmission of power from alternative energy sources. Kennison said if that goes through, money may become available for the project at an attractive interest rate.



Heppner's Swim Team Carnival during the Moonlight Sale Friday netted about \$400 for the club. In this picture (left to right) Duane Ball, Travis Harrison, Terry Chinen, Cynthia Piper and Lana Reid have fun at the club race.