

The Official Newspaper of the City of Heppner, and the County of Morrow
The Heppner GAZETTE-TIMES
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David and April Hilton Sykes, Publishers

Editorial

Vote Abrams and French

Two highly qualified candidates from the Heppner area have a chance to move into positions of influence and responsibility in next Tuesday's primary election, but they will need all the votes they can muster to get these positions.

Bob Abrams, candidate for the circuit court judgeship, and Ray French running for state representative, are both top notch candidates and deserve to be elected. Not only will they serve with honesty and diligence for the job, but they will do so with the intelligence we need from elected officials.

Being from Heppner, however, their qualifications may be obscured by the oft quoted lack of "name familiarity" we all hear about in politics.

This should not be a factor in a candidates ability to do the job, however, in politics it sometimes is. We in the Heppner-Ione-Lexington area can help; however, by getting out to vote. Abrams and French need all the votes they can get, and they need a strong showing from their home town at the polls.

Primary elections normally show a higher turnout than other elections, but let's make this an exceptional election and get out the vote - for French and Abrams.

Alleges Frohnmeyer is circumventing law

To the editor:
 The 1981 Legislature took great care in closing loopholes to prevent the indiscriminate use of personal service contracts by state agencies. We were very specific in placing into law the requirement that the value of personal service contracts be a public record.

The Attorney General of Oregon, Dave Frohnmeyer, who has the responsibility for enforcing our public records law, is himself currently circumventing the clear intent of that law, ORS 291.021.

The Attorney General has refused to disclose the value of his personal service contract with the Philadelphia law firm of Mortan, Lewis, and Bockius, who he has retained to defend the State Board of Higher Education against a class action suit alleging sex discrimination in personnel hiring and management. He claims that the confidentiality of this information is protected because it pertains to litigation in which the state is currently involved.

Senator L.B. Day, R-Salem, and I disagree strongly with the Attorney General. Editorial writers in Salem and Portland share our view. "The Oregonian" said on April 17: "As a principal author of much of Oregon's sunshine legislation and the official who directs his colleagues in state government to make their records public, Attorney General Frohnmeyer should apply the same standards to himself and make public a document he is keeping under cover."

The Salem "Statesman-Journal" offered the following timely advice under the title "Frohnmeyer Keeps a Secret" on April 13: "If revealing the amount would be politically embarrassing to him, a refusal to disclose it coupled with a court order requiring him to do so would be doubly embarrassing." In light of Attorney General Frohnmeyer's refusal to disclose the amount of taxpayer

Philadelphia lawyers, which he is required by law to disclose, Senator Day and I have filed suit in Marion County Circuit Court. We believe that the spending of public money is public information and that Attorney General Frohnmeyer's office should comply with the law.

The Attorney General, with the assistance of the Governor, is now using television, radio, and the newspapers to accuse us of trying to "politically influence" the outcome of his case. I deny this in the strongest possible terms. To the date of Frohnmeyer's remark, I did not hold a press conference, I did not issue a public statement, and I have not given a political speech on the subject. My sole public comment was made in response to press inquiries at the time Senator Day and I filed our suit.

In an open letter released to the press, the Governor said that "it would be unconscionable to require the state to lay all of its cards face up on the table." This is ridiculous! The public information we request is immaterial to the case being litigated, it will never be entered in evidence, now will it ever be presented to the court. These are cards that are not even in the deck.

I can only conclude that this Attorney General, who is presently running for re-election and whose ambitions to sit in the Governor's chair are no secret, has become sensitive to the point of hysteria on this issue. I must also conclude, as has Senator Day, that Frohnmeyer is wrong and knows it. If the Attorney General were right he would be, as he is so eager to state in the media that he is, content to let the courts decide the issue.

Let me again restate the facts in a manner clear enough that even our Attorney General might understand. The Attorney General has a personal service contract with the Philadelphia law firm of



Letters to the Editor

Supports school tax base increase

To the editor:
 One of our greatest freedoms is the operation of our local schools which is administered locally. That requires a continuity of personnel and money. The proposed tax base levy is the considered amount passed by the local school board, budget committee and voters. This would be a logical operational base for the future.

The current concern over taxation is built into the present budget. It looks like it is a bare bones budget. From this

Urges approval of school tax base

To the editor:
 On May 15 voters will be asked to vote on a Morrow County School District tax base proposal.

The amount of the tax base being requested is the same as the amount which the people have already approved at the March budget election.

The present tax base was established many years ago and is only capable of provid-

Current tax base unrealistic

To the editor:
 Among the many items on the May 15 ballot in Morrow County will be a request to establish a realistic tax base for the Morrow County School District.

A tax base is the dollar amount of property taxes which may be levied for schools without a vote of the people. This tax base may be increased up to six percent annually. Districts that wish to exceed this base must ask approval by a vote of the people. If a district is not successful in passing a tax levy to exceed its tax base, it must live within the six percent limitation.

The Morrow County School

point on we could hold the board and administration accountable by holding them to only a six percent increase. Nothing says we couldn't get tough on the board and hold them under six percent.

Why should we do this now? Current proposals to limit taxation hit at the wrong place. Local instead of federal. In order to protect our schools we need the proposed tax base.

Sincerely,
 (s) Don Peterson
 Ione, OR

Supports Townsend

To the editor:
 We have all talked about doing something constructive that would enhance Oregon's business outlook, especially Eastern Oregon.

Irv Townsend is running for Representative in District 59 and has the broad background for a better understanding of the many issues that will be facing the next legislature. He is willing and able to devote the time and energy needed to seek the best solution possible to modify our tax structure,

determine the best use of our natural resources, and retain the destiny of our future by local decisions. Irv will work diligently to maintain and preserve the independent thinking and leadership so necessary for Oregon and especially Eastern Oregon in the crucial years immediately ahead.

Vote for Irv. He will work for you.

Sincerely,
 (s) Sid Johnson
 2420 7th St.
 Baker, OR 97814

Discloses BMCC budget data

To the editor:
 Recently Ron Daniels provided me historical budget data for Blue Mountain Community College operations. Analyses of this data provides some interesting information of the conservatism of the community college operation.

Compared to a base of 1980-81 the 1984-85 B.M.C.C. budget is a 32 percent increase or an average of eight percent per year when both state funds and property taxes are considered. It seems to me this is a far greater increase than other local taxing bodies have required.

College officials say the reason they have had surplus funds is because of strict budget control. A different reason for surplus budgets is excessive budgeting. Since there seems to be no outward restrictions in any phase of B.M.C.C. activities during tight budget years for other agencies one could deduct excessive budgeting has created the surplus.

Now college officials have jumped on the chance to tie-down an excessive budget tax base during the coming election. One way to cure surplus budgeting is to vote down the proposed tax base and ask the budget committee in the future to more carefully scrutinize the line items to reduce their surplus budget problems.

(s) Tom Thompson
 1038B NW 12th
 Pendleton, OR 97801

Continue working on agenda

To the editor:
 Unfinished business remains in the office of the Attorney General and I hope to continue work on an agenda which will give Oregon the finest Department of Justice in the nation.

While seeking election I pledged that the Attorney General's office would be a major instrument in the fight against organized crime. The first vital steps in this program were taken when we secured passage of legislation permitting us for the first time to directly attack organized criminal enterprises. The result has been recovery of more than a half million dollars for the Oregon taxpayer.

I promised to provide timely and efficient legal services to state government. During my administration, the cost of legal services to state government has been reduced. We have been praised by one state jurist as a "first rate law firm."

The office, by law, is at the cutting edge of controversial issues. I have not nor will I shy away from defending the state's legal position even when a case or issue is politically unpopular. To do other-

Sincerely,
 (s) Grattan Kerans
 Speaker of the House

You are invited to a pot luck dinner to say "farewell" to
MATT DOHERTY
 Sunday, May 20, 1984
 Riverside High School, Boardman
 5:00 p.m.
 There will be an open house coffee hour from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. for those who would like to stop by and wish Matt well, but are unable to stay for the pot luck dinner. The dinner will start at 5:00 p.m.
 If your last name begins with the letter:
 A - G bring a salad
 H - R bring a main dish
 S - Z bring a dessert
 We would like to give an attendance count no later than May 15 so that arrangements can be made accordingly. Please call the Morrow County School District Office, 989-8202, and let them know if you plan to attend. Children are welcome.

Supports Timms

To the editor:
 Senator Gene Timms represents an area in Oregon that is bigger than some nations, an area that is called District 30.

Morrow County is a part of this district that this Burns business man represents. He is located centrally, is well known, and was appointed over considerable competition.

I had the opportunity to visit him in Salem shortly after he was appointed and worked with him on the Boeing lease. His concern and participation was sincere and indicates he will work with our needs. Contact him.

A voter for him will fortify him in his efforts.

Sincerely,
 (s) Don Peterson
 Ione

Supports Frohnmeyer

To the editor:
 Dave Frohnmeyer, candidate for Oregon's attorney general, says his job is "second only to the Governor in importance and in the ability to shape the direction and decisions that affect the quality of life for Oregonians."

Frohnmeyer is a former University of Oregon law professor and three term state

representative from Eugene. My brief moments with him at Seaside Dorchesters left me with the impression that he is responsive to input and is dedicated to protect consumers and fight financial fraud.

Vote for a good attorney general, Dave Frohnmeyer.

Sincerely,
 (s) Don Peterson
 Ione

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(s) Tom Thompson
 1038B NW 12th
 Pendleton, OR 97801

Mother's Day

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When you give real gold on Mother's Day, action speaks louder than words.

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Enjoyed visit to Heppner

To the editor:
 My family and I enjoyed our recent visit to your community. Dr. Koznek gave us a tour of the hospital and the town and we would love to become members of the community next July after I finish my internship. Everyone that we

met was extra friendly and courteous and it would be an honor and a privilege to practice medicine and for my family and myself to become part of the Heppner community.

Sincerely yours,
 (s) Dr. Gregory R. Lytle, D.O.

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