


The Official Newspaper of the  
City of Heppner and the  
County of Morrow



The Heppner  
**GAZETTE-TIMES**  
Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper

U.S.P.S. 240-420

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## Letters to the Editor

### Tree pruning comments in poor taste

To the Editor:

After reading Mr. Lundin's comments in last week's Gazette about how the trees at the fairgrounds were trimmed, one would think that the trimming was done by a professional. While Mr. Lundin is knowledgeable about the care of trees, he is not very knowledgeable about the maintenance of our fairground facilities.

The elms at the fairgrounds are old and tall. They have been a hazard, due to the dropping of debris and dead limbs, etc. We have sprayed them for years, and recommended the trees be trimmed. After three years of trying to locate someone who would trim them at a nominal fee, the fair board approached Columbia Basin Electric Co-op about the use of their equipment. Columbia Basin gladly donated the use of the equipment and the men donated their time. These men did not profess to be expert tree trimmers, but realized that the job needed to be done. They spent a long, cold day on top of the equipment to get the job done. We should be thanking Columbia Basin and these men, not slapping them in the face with criticism.

Elm trees are hardy and I'm sure that we will see these trees leafed out and giving good shade in another year.

Criticism is hard to accept when you have done the best you can with the resources you have. Mr. Lundin should be suggesting ways to improve the project, and offering his help...not criticizing the way it looks. Since he was aware of the circumstances, I feel his comments were in poor taste.

Our fair board members have done a great job of keeping the grounds looking attractive and neat. They have a limited amount of money to work with, and are not immune to budget cuts. These people donate many hours...not just at fair time, but all year. We should appreciate their efforts and give them a pat on the back of a job well done. If there are many people who would like to donate money or time to help with the maintenance of the grounds, I am sure the fair committee would welcome your support and help.

Sincerely,  
(s) Jean Jepsen  
Dobyns Pest Control

To the Editor:

The Heppner Soil and Water Conservation District was established in the mid 1940's by local farmers and ranchers. (Later merged with North Morrow S.W.C.D. and became Morrow S.W.C.D.) To finance District activities, farm machinery was bought and rented out to area farmers. This worked well until most farmers bought their own machinery and made the district rental program obsolete.

For several years now the county has been funding most S.W.C.D. activities. The weed control program

has been in existence two years, also funded by Morrow County. Therefore when the county budget fails these programs are in jeopardy.

A tax base to finance the Morrow County Soil and Water Conservation District and county weed control will be decided May 20.

I hope when you go to the polls you will remember the importance of these two programs and vote yes for the tax base.

Sincerely,  
(s) Al Osmin Director  
Morrow S.W.C.D.

### Urges passing tax base for SWCD

To the Editor:

I would urge the citizens of Morrow County to pass the tax base for the Morrow Soil and Water Conservation District. Since we have employed a District Manager we have been able to make a good start on the control of some of our large areas of noxious weed infestations. And we are keeping a careful watch for new weeds in our area.

The State has mandated the counties to establish weed control. But county efforts are subject to annual county budget priorities. If this tax base is passed the noxious weed con-

trol program will be funded by the SWCD. To be effective our weed district must maintain continuity of effort. This cannot be done without a constant level of funding that enables the district to plan and schedule work over several years. The budget is not to spend tax money on private land weed control but to provide the administration and clerical support needed to organize and direct community efforts, and to secure state and federal cost share dollars to further the program.

(s) C.R. McElligott  
Past Chairman, Morrow SWCD

"An adult is one who has ceased to grow vertically but not horizontally."  
Anon.

**PETTY JOHN'S ANNIVERSARY PARTY!**  
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### Favors lottery funds to support schools

To the Editor:

We are in the process of getting a petition to change the distribution of 34 percent of the lottery funds from economic development to primary and secondary school support, as an offset to property taxes. The money, including interest, would be distributed according to school district per capita, and would be in addition to the basic school support allocated to the school districts by the state legislature and administered by the State Board of Education.

We feel that this change would help support the schools, as well as give property tax relief, which in turn, should help existing Oregon businesses and draw new businesses into our state.

We realize this is not the complete answer to the major problem of school support, but it is a beginning. Many people have told us they would buy lottery tickets if the money were going for school support; others have said they would buy more tickets.

The initiative petition has been sent to the Attorney General for a ballot title. After that, there is a period of ten days that written opposition can be sent to the Secretary of State. We were advised by the legislative council that it would be to our benefit to write an argument in favor of the initiative. We are asking anyone who agrees with what we

### Fair Board strives to reduce spending

To the Editor:

Passing of budgets and ways to reduce spending in the face of our economy, plays a major role in all taxpayers' minds; however, changes are not always readily acceptable.

The Morrow County Fair Board strives to be attuned to the needs of the community and county, and one of the ways to reduce spending costs and create a multi-use center for the community, is a proposal by the Fair Board, offering a 100' x 150' building site on the Morrow County Fairgrounds to the Senior Citizens. Building on the fairgrounds instead of the formerly planned site, would eliminate county tax dollars spent on a needed access bridge and street, as well as graveling and paving of the street and parking areas.

If constructed on the Fairgrounds, the proposed 60' x 80' building would be used for needed exhibit space during the Fair and Rodeo. This Senior Building would still be controlled and operated by the Senior Citizens, but would create expansion for community and county assemblies such as during St. Patrick's weekend, Memorial Day gatherings, Fair and Rodeo accommodations and the December Artfactory.

The Morrow County Fairgrounds has the potential for increased activities which would generate revenues for the city and county. Increased tourism by outdoor groups, convention gatherings, and sports tournaments could be accommodated at the fairgrounds with the addition of said building, which could offer kitchen facilities and additional meeting space. Compatible with the other facilities on the grounds, users would have fewer conflicts in scheduling events, and still have the benefits of picnic areas, ball fields, and travel trailer space to provide accommodations beyond the limits of the one motel and one R V park within the city of Heppner.

Should the Senior Citizens accept the proposal, a conditional-use deed to the Seniors would include a reversion clause stating that should the Seniors no longer operate a center, the building would revert to the control of the Fair Board. The building and its operational costs are assumed totally by the Senior Citizens, and the Fair Board would have free usage of same during Fair Week. The fairgrounds site would reduce costs for electricity and sewer hook-up due to accessibility, plus eliminate the need for development of parking areas. Building and operation costs are funded primari-

are doing to send a written comment telling why they favor the initiative to the Secretary of State, Barbara Roberts. The address is: 141 State Capitol, Salem, Oregon 97310-0722.

Time to attain 83,361 eligible signatures is going to be limited. To put the initiative on the November General Election, we must have the signatures in Salem by July 3. Not knowing exactly how long the government process will take, and because time is of the essence, we are compiling a list of names and addresses of persons who are willing to circulate the petitions so that we can rush the petitions into circulation just as soon as we can legally begin getting signatures.

We do not plan fund raising for advertisement so we are depending on word by mouth and/or letters. It's important that you tell anyone who will listen about this. If you know any person or group that might be interested in helping circulate the petitions, please ask them to contact us.

Any suggestions or ideas on anything you feel we could do to further our cause would be gratefully accepted.

Thank you,  
Janette Kirkland  
544 Fir Point Lane  
Glendale, OR 97442  
Ph: 832-2183 or 832-3252

ly through donations and contributions and fund-raisers by the Seniors, with future rentals of said building going towards its operation.

The Fair Board would thus not have additional building space to maintain, to add to operational and insurance costs. Fair and Rodeo funds are primarily the revenues received through the racing commission allocation, and these revenues have been decreasing, which means that further building or development on the grounds must be minimally with year-around expenses reduced to match income resources.

One recent example of cutting costs was the generous donation by Columbia Basin Electric Co-op by providing one whole day of manpower and equipment to trim trees on the fairgrounds, which greatly improved the area by eliminating limb debris and human hazard, as well as reducing spraying costs and improving effectiveness of spraying.

Another plus in the way of donated help, is the community-service project being provided by the Heppner FFA Chapter by tearing down the old horse barn at the fairgrounds. This was necessitated by insurance costs and fire hazard of the obsolete building.

The volunteers and donations of this community are a great example of the American way of life in rural communities. While the annual Fair and Rodeo is a boon to the economy of the county, it is also only possible due to the efforts of many volunteer hours by a lot of individuals and businesses. It is great to live in a community-minded area, where the majority of individuals care about fellow residents, and where people can work together to better themselves and the area.

Respectfully submitted,  
(s) Meryl Robinson

### 4-H Clubs

Mark Sunday, May 4 on your calendar. At 1:30 p.m. we will have a tune-up clinic for the fair. Jocelyn Jones will be the instructor. Weather permitting, the meeting will be at the Robinson feed lot. (If it rains, meet at the fairgrounds.) Everyone is invited to come and start getting ready for the summer horse show.

Two-Trackers will not meet Sunday, May 11. May 18 will begin the summer schedule.

### Favors Freauf for governor

To the Editor:

Attention Republicans: There is a difference in the philosophies of the two women who are running for Governor of Oregon.

If you want less government and favor local control vote for Betty Freauf. She currently is the Marion Co. Chairman of the Republican Party, 5th Congressional District, Secretary and past Oregon State Republican Party Secretary. She has been "Legislative Watch Dog", an editor of Legislative Action Newsletter (83-85). She testifies for conservation issues.

Betty Freauf is in favor of the Death Penalty and against Gun Control.

Betty Freauf is Pro Life and opposes taxpayers having to pick up the "tab" for abortion.

Betty Freauf opposes minority status for homosexuals and opposes legal prostitution.

Betty Freauf is opposed to the Sales Tax and is strongly opposed to L.C.D.C. and supports Reagan's

goals of returning controls to local authority wherever possible.

Secretary of State Paulus favors the Sales Tax. She favors government control "We must yoke the business sector and government" (November 6, 1985 La Grande Observer.)

Paulus is an active supporter of E.R.A. She is Pro Choice. Supports homosexuals as a matter of Civil Rights 5B-319-83 legislature.

Paulus favors "desecrimalization" Prostitution O.S.VI. speech October, 1978 First Annual Women's Studies Symposium. Paulus Would not publicly endorse Reagan in 1984. The "Records speak for themselves" for both candidates. Betty Freauf offers an alternative choice for Governor. She is a strong advocate for the Free Enterprise System; she is very knowledgeable and will listen to the people rather than the bureaucracy.

Sincerely,  
(s) Mary Hickey  
Heppner, OR 97836

### Supports Gray for Justice of the Peace

To the Editor:

Residents of Morrow County can rejoice that our Justice Court is going to remain serving us. The service and convenience it provides for judicial procedure and law enforcement efforts needed to be kept.

We should also keep Judge Gray whose administration of the court has made its operation effective and

efficient. There's an appropriate saying, "No substitute for experience." I can think of no area where this would be more true than when determining who is to serve as Justice of the Peace. This we will be doing on May 20.

(s) Don Reiber  
Heppner, OR

### Wage & salary employment declined

Difficulties continue to plague labor market data for Morrow County says the Eastern Oregon office of the Oregon Employment Division. The principal problem arises from the bench-marking process where the economic model used by the Employment Division to calculate county unemployment data is tied to U.S. Census information.

The major problem in this area is caused by the presence of large numbers (in excess of 1,000) of non-resident construction workers present in the labor force during the U.S. Census count in 1980. Factors developed during 1985 to be placed into the Employment Division model in 1986 are based on the construction employment residency patterns established during the building of the PGE power plant. As more data becomes available, and approval is obtained from the Department of Labor to depart from the preferred methodology, the problem will be corrected. Unfortunately, during the interim, the total employment

number will continue to be less accurate than is either desired or required. This, in turn, skews the unemployment rate, although oddly enough has no significant effect on the numbers of unemployed. While the problem is being rectified, it is best to rely on wage and salary employment numbers to identify trends in the area.

Wage and salary employment declined by 10 during the year and remained stable during the month continued the Division news release. The major change during the year was a sizeable decline in trade employment (-70) and an increase in Transportation, Communications, and Utility employment (\$40). The county economy has been relatively stable during the first two months of this year and will probably remain so through April.

The numbers of employed increased somewhat during February and will most likely continue to increase next month, concludes the press release.

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