


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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Editorial

Heppner pulls together for St. Pat's

The success of last weekend's St. Patrick's Day Celebration proves that Heppner truly has become "the Irish Capital of Oregon."

The celebration would not even be possible, however, without the support of everyone in town, and in fact the entire Heppner area.

Out of town guests (and they are our guests) on St. Patrick's Day Weekend were treated very well and made to feel welcome here, which is a big plus for our hospitality and sincerity in putting on a first class celebration.

As St. Patrick's Day chairman, Jim Farley said Saturday over the KUMA radio show, "it pulls the town together, and gets us out of our winter doldrums."

How true. Congratulations everyone.
David Sykes

Letters to the Editor

Has enjoyed working on hotel project

To the Editor: I was also happy to assist you in getting your \$500,000 grant from Inter-government Relations Division. I hope the main street Senior Center and Retirement Home is a success and I look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely yours,
(s) Eugene (Gene) D. Timms
State Senator
District 30

Hotel is worthwhile project

To the Editor: We wish to concur with all the letters in last week's Gazette Times, which supported the re-modeling of the Heppner Hotel to house seniors. We have often heard the remark that Heppner was a town of "Widows". So what better idea than this to create a nice living space and provide a Senior Center at the same time? It is right in the downtown area so convenient in every respect. It would give our town a "little something more" that we really need right now.

We just feel that it's the right thing to do and we want to go on record as supporting what we feel is a worthwhile project.

(s) Carl and Sylvia McDaniel
Heppner

Hotel Project will strengthen economy

To the Editor: We in Heppner and South Morrow all agree that we need to strengthen our economy. Organizations and individuals here are beginning to explore ways we can do that. We need to find as many as we can. Suggestions include tourism, cottage industries, a flour mill, and others.

One idea I believe is sure to succeed is to encourage people to move here to spend their retired years. I say it's sure because our country has marked increases in the number of older people and the assurance of even greater increases in the next 20 to 40 years. The "baby boomers" are in their forties. People are retiring earlier and living longer. Most of them now live in urban areas.

The Heppner area can offer some of this large group of older citizens an opportunity to maintain and prolong their independence and enhance their quality of life.

What can we offer these people? 1) clean air with open country, a lake and forest lands nearby; 2) a friendly, rural town atmosphere with people of all ages, free from limitations of a "retirement community"; 3) a variety of sizes and quality of homes and apartments for rent or sale; 4) freedom from city congestion, the "fast lane" and fear of being mugged, robbed and beaten; 5) dentists, doctors, hospital, lifeguard helicopter and other health services; 6) a choice of worship in 13 different churches; 7) a choice of membership in a variety of lodges, civic and hobby organizations; 8) recreation of good fishing, hunting, bowling, golf, swimming, boating, and others; 9) several restaurants, cafes, and bars for eating out; 10) good food

markets, drug store, shoe and apparel shops, hardware, appliance stores, florist, gift shop and others; 11) three banks, attorneys, barber and beauty shops, auto sales and maintenance and I could go on. We just about have it all.

In return these retired people can help us by providing: 1) use of our doctors, hospital and health care facilities (probably the key to maintaining these for our whole community); 2) buyers and tenants for the many places advertised here; 3) business for our stores and service people; 4) increased activity in our churches and organizations; 5) use and expansion of our recreational facilities; 6) population increase with little or no vandalism, drug abuse or law violation.

They could be an asset to Heppner.

The Heppner Hotel project is the one positive, concrete move toward tapping this retired citizen source. I doubt that the 19 apartments planned there will cover the need of our own people in the next 30 years, and I feel sure that an active senior center in that location will be an added incentive for people outside our area to move here.

We can be thankful for the individuals and organizations with the vision to propose this project and the dedication, hard work, and sacrifice to make it happen. On March 31 we people of Heppner can support and encourage their work by getting to the ballot box and voting for this project. It is one way to strengthen our economy. It is not a risk. It's an opportunity.

Sincerely,
(s) Jane Rawlins

Reviving hotel shows that people care

To the Editor:

We are excited about all the possibilities for Heppner development that indicate people care. First and foremost is the Heppner Hotel. What potential. Here is a dilapidated building soon to be revived into a thriving apartment complex and Senior Citizen Center, while preserving the historical significance. It will mean Main Street will be alive with more people and its appearance will be upgraded.

I was fortunate to visit a part of Europe a few years ago and the thing that stood out most in my mind was the care they gave their old buildings (and we're talking 300, 500, and 1,000 years). I returned with the opinion that we are a wasteful country. Why leave old skeletons of buildings and build new elsewhere? Preserve

the old; it shows pride in our heritage.

While we're talking about positive additions to our community, don't forget the Park Project at Willow Creek Dam. This has so much potential and is greatly needed for both visitors and Heppner families. The park would be full on St. Patrick's Day and many other weekends. This is our "gateway to the blue mountains" and would be another sign that "yes, we care about our rural community".

A yes vote for the Hotel Project and the Park District Operating Levy will continue a revitalization trend which says to people: "We're OK and we're moving ahead."

Sincerely,
(s) Merlin and Claudia Hughes
Heppner

'Safety net' measure will keep schools open

To the Editor:

Although I strongly support a school "safety net" measure to keep schools open, I was the only senator who voted against SJR 3, as it is written.

District 30 with its 49 school districts has wide variety of school financing problems. Many school districts have tax bases, which this bill doesn't affect. The problem develops with those which have cut back their budgets dramatically and depend on other operation budget resources? My district has many schools that depend heavily on other revenue sources. Also, any workable safety net plan must address the problem of enrollment increases and decreases. There is no provision in this legislation, and consequently I

find it a serious drawback. There is very little flexibility in this process SJR 3.

Another source of revenue is basic school support. I am very disappointed there will be very little increase in basic school support. The state has mandated programs and not provided financing. Kindergarten in 1989 is a prime example. If the state increased school support I would have voted for this legislation. These funds could have stabilized other revenue resources. I hope that people understand that this is not the answer to school financing. It is just what it says: "a safety net", not an answer to school finance.

(s) Eugene D. Timms
Senator, Dist. 30
S-302, State Capitol
Salem

Goodyear, Bristow, Lindsay, supported as port commission candidates

To the Editor:

Heppner Economic Development Corporation wishes to express support for three of the candidates currently running for the Port of Morrow Board of Directors.

Kent Goodyear has experience as a port manager. He also has administrative experience for a large employer, the Kinzua Corporation mill in Heppner. He has demonstrated his ability to be fair minded and reasonable about issues of import to the entire county.

John Bristow, from Ione, has been a community businessman for many years. He has served on the Morrow County Planning Commission and is a past president of the Ione Community Agri Business Organization (ICABO). He has demonstrated himself to be a major asset to the port commission since his appointment in November, 1986.

Larry Lindsay has been a port commission member for many years. Most of the other members are relatively new to the port commission. Larry can offer a continuity which is only possible from a person who has served the organization

for some time. Without his experience, the port commission members would be forced to relearn a lot of the procedure and development which has made the port an effective organization.

The port commission as it now exists, with the three persons above noted, fairly represents all areas of the county. While it is true that the Boardman area has received the majority of benefit from the port, the port is a county-wide organization and is supported by taxes from all of Morrow County. The port has shown an interest in aiding economic development throughout the county. Such a goal can only be reached through balanced representation.

HEDC therefore encourages each of you to vote for Kent Goodyear, John Bristow, and Larry Lindsay to maintain balance and continuity on the Port of Morrow. They are the best qualified candidates both by education and experience, and they will bring balance to the Port Commission.

(s) Cliff Green
President, H.E.D.C.

Supports Nicholes for port commission

To the Editor:

I write this letter to inform the public of my support of Bruce Nicholes for Port Commissioner for the Port of Morrow. I have known Bruce for many years and feel confident that he will do what he says he will. That is a quality we all like and respect in our elected officials. Bruce has the time to devote to being a good commissioner in that his livelihood, real estate, places no great time constraint on him as a regular business or 8 - 5 job does.

Bruce has the dedication, interest, and knowledge to fulfill his duties as Port Commissioner. He has been instrumental in the past in helping new industry locate in Morrow County and I would like to see him now in a position to help take care of existing tenants right along with helping new ones locate here. Help me help Bruce; let's elect him to the Port of Morrow and put him to work.

(s) Vernon Russell
PO Box 7
Boardman, OR

Continue to strive for economic development

To the Editor:

Economic development, the buzz word of today's society. Much used verbiage, highly sought after commodity, the answer to all our problems? Is economic development all that good? Yes, when done in a positive manner with the right long-term goals in mind. We want growth and development because without it we stagnate, which leads to fewer opportunities for success, fewer jobs, fewer people and businesses sharing the burden of providing services, and our tax rate goes up.

The Port of Morrow can be credited with helping to bring many of our industries to Morrow County, and those industries are helping

to keep our tax rates down. Just look to our west and see the large rates needed to support services in both areas easily twice what ours are in Morrow County. The reason we have large industries helping us support our services they do not.

We must continue to strive for our positive economic development and the Port of Morrow should be the leader and catalyst for economic development in Morrow County.

I would like to add my time, knowledge and commitment by serving you, the citizens of Morrow County, on the Port of Morrow Commission.

(s) Bruce O Nicholes
Boardman, OR

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Eric Anderson

MORROW COUNTY WHEAT GROWERS LEAGUE

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DINNER

Compliments OWGL
Public Invited

Friday March 27th, 7p.m.
Willows Grange, Ione

Guest speaker; **Bob Buchanan**
Director Ore. Dept. of Agriculture

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RE-ELECT Larry Lindsay

Port Of Morrow Commission



Continuing Experience **Steady Progress** **Expanding Economic Development**

Paid for by the committee to re-elect Larry Lindsay, Port of Morrow Commission
Lexington, Oregon