


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

Published every Wednesday and entered as second-class matter at the Post Office at Heppner, Oregon under the Act of March 3, 1879. Second class postage paid at Heppner, Oregon. Office at 147 West Willow Street. Telephone (503) 676-9228. Address communications to the Heppner Gazette-Times, P.O. Box 337, Heppner, Oregon 97836. Subscriptions: \$12 in Morrow, Wheeler, Gilliam and Grant Counties; \$23 elsewhere.

Joyce Hughes ..... Office Manager, Typesetting  
Sandy Holtz ..... News Editor  
Marie Struthers ..... Graphics Department  
Gail Papineau ..... Graphics, Distribution  
Eileen Sailing ..... Proof Reading

David and April Sykes, Publishers

**Editorial**  
**Lets not blow opportunities**

Probably most of us at one time or another have said to ourselves, "I should've done that differently".

Hopefully the election coming up next week will not be one of those times.

Two issues on the ballot, the Willow Creek Park District and the Heppner Hotel renovation project, are two unique opportunities that may not come our way again.

The hotel project, which will see the renovation of the old Heppner Hotel into a senior citizens center and housing project, and the park district operating levy, will both be of benefit to our area.

The hotel project is asking for a city amendment to allow the city to borrow money to help renovate the old building. A \$500,000 grant has already been approved, and combined with the loan will be used for the renovation project. Money from rent of the rooms will be used to repay the loan.

The opportunity is now, and will not get any better, to improve the look of our downtown, provide needed housing and a recreation area for seniors, as well as strengthen the economics of Heppner. All the necessary pieces of the hotel "puzzle" have fallen into place, and a positive vote will insure that we won't look back several years from now and say "we should've".

The Willow Creek Park District is asking for a levy of \$29,300 to be used for operation once the park is built. Grants also figure into the park because money for actual construction is coming from in-kind, or donated labor and materials, and from a state grant application.

Local funds are not being requested to build the park, only operate it once the park has been built.

The park will include camping spaces, a picnic area and a swimming beach. These improvements to the lake are necessary to attract tourists to South Morrow County and bring in the dollars we need to diversify our economy, a benefit to all who work, visit or socialize here. The tourist industry will help stabilize our trading and service base which is also important to our rural public and farmers.

The Willow Creek Dam is unique in the world, and add to that a beautiful park and we will have something very special we can all enjoy. The day use and swimming area can be of great use to all of us in South Morrow County, and will be a close by recreation facility for all of us.

Let's not look back and say we "should've" approved these measures, let's do it.

David Sykes

**Letters to the Editor**

**Vote 'yes' on all budgets**

To the Editor:  
Let's forget our petty grievances and vote yes for our kids and the future of Morrow County.

Keep our tax dollars at home. We made them here. Vote yes on all budgets.

(s) Hazel Mahoney  
Heppner

**Will vote Goodyear, Lindsay, Bristow**

To the Editor:  
Three positions on the Morrow County Port Commission are being contested in the March 31 election. The present make-up of that body is Larry Lindsay, Chairman from Lexington, Bill Sharkey, Boardman, Matt Doherty, Irrigon, Kent Goodyear, Heppner and John Bristow, Ione.

ing in the contested positions be unseated there would be no representation from Heppner, Lexington or Ione.

This should be one consideration in the selection of a candidate as persons cast their ballot. We intend to vote for Kent Goodyear, Larry Lindsay, and John Bristow and urge you to join us.

Sincerely,  
(s) Keith Rea  
Judy Rea  
P.O. Box 281  
Ione, OR 97843

**Former commissioner supports Lind-say, Nicholes**

To the Editor:  
The people of Morrow County will once again express their wishes who will represent them on the Port of Morrow Commission March 31.

It's with much excitement I have watched the dreams of the founding fathers of the port realized. Being a charter member when the Port was formed by the voters of Morrow County in 1958, (serving 18 years, 8 years as chairman) I can say well done to those who have picked up the ball and continued the goals of growth.

One of those people is Larry Lindsay who is finishing 20 years of service. Larry has offered to serve another 4-year term. Having worked with Larry for 10 years I know his capabilities and am pleased to

support him for re-election.

A new member running for Port Commissioner is Bruce Nicholes. His candidacy offers a resource of energy, knowledge and experience in the fields of Agriculture, business and management. Because he is an plane, he will be a great help on the Ports airport project. Since he is Ports airport project. Since he is semiretired, he will have the time necessary to devote to the many hours needed for Port business and problems.

These things together will help the Port to grow thereby helping the economy of all of Morrow County.

I appreciate this format to express my views about these two candidates.

(s) Dewey West  
Past Port Commissioner

**Two chances to strengthen area economy**

To the Editor:  
The citizens of Heppner have a chance this coming Tuesday to take two steps towards strengthening the economic well being of our community and the surrounding area.

I'm referring to the measures on the ballot concerning guaranteeing the financing of the St. Patrick's Hotel project and the operational budget for the Willow Creek dam project.

A yes vote on these measures will help insure the financing of the need- ed renovation of the hotel and construction of the park site. Both of these projects will not only pay for themselves, but will provide long term economic benefits down the road for the general area.

I would encourage a Yes vote on both measures.

(s) Don Cole  
Heppner

**Will vote for seniors, hotel, and economy**

To the Editor:  
What a wonderful opportunity the city of Heppner has with the renovation of the Heppner St. Patrick's Hotel. What a joy it would be to see this great building restored and ful-

ly occupied with a Senior Citizen's Center and 19 apartments for seniors.

The greatest growing segment of our society is the Senior Citizen population and we have before us the chance to keep this growing population in our area while at the same time renewing a historic landmark in our city. When so often the elder persons of our society are left with few choices (often minimal standard housing, we in Heppner have choices) in quality and affordable housing, we in Heppner have the tremendous opportunity to offer an attractive building for quality housing to our Senior Citizens. And there is very little at risk with this project. In fact, the figures suggest that the St. Patrick Hotel will provide revenue for the city of Heppner.

I truly hope the people of Heppner vote "Yes" on March 31 for our Senior Citizens, for our economy, and for the Heppner St. Patrick's Hotel. Let us vote "Yes" to see this dream become a reality.

(s) Donald A. Boyce  
Pastor, Heppner United Methodist Church

**Will vote for hotel project and park levy**

To the Editor:  
On March 31 the people of our community are being asked to vote on a change of the Heppner City Charter.

This places us in a rather unique position. The decision is not so much a charter change as it is an expression by the people of Heppner to indicate their faith in the future of our town.

A decision to approve this change will result in a vastly improved look to Main Street. It will place us among the Cities of Oregon that have indicated their belief in the future of their communities.

The placement of a Housing Center on Main Street will make it possible for those who have little or no transportation to shop at the stores, have easy access to the post office and to the Senior Center which will be located in the same building.

The seniors of our area have indicated their approval by their pledge to invest over \$70,000 in the renovation of the Hotel.

On the same day a decision is to be made on whether the people of our area wish to levy \$29,300 for match funds which will enable the Park district to secure a Federal grant.

This will enhance funds for a park overlooking the Willow Creek dam, South of Heppner.

We intend to vote for the charter change and for the Park levy. The approval of these two proposals will result in a giant stride forward for Heppner and South Morrow County. We invite and urge the citizens of this area to join us in voting favorably for these two vital projects.

Sincerely  
(s) Paul and Blanche Jones  
Heppner

**Nicholes has experience, common sense**

To the Editor:  
I'm writing to support the candidacy of Bruce O. Nicholes for position No. 4 on the Port of Morrow Commission.

Bruce brings almost 50 years of Agri-business experience, Aviation experience, and just plain common sense to this position. Bruce is a successful businessman who has profitably run a major port industry for 10 years, prior to its sale. He has spent the last five years in the real estate industry in Morrow County.

Bruce has worked with every Port Manager we have had at the Port of Morrow, and has already attended more port meetings than his opponent will have attended at the end of

the term of office for which this election is being held.

Bruce has the time, experience and know-how to serve in this vitally important position.

It's the citizens of Morrow County's investment of time and money that has brought the Port to where it is now. I believe we have a right to have the best and most experienced person available to be a Port Commissioner. That person is Bruce Nicholes. Please join me in voting for Bruce Nicholes for Port Commissioner. It's just plain good sense.

Yours very truly,  
(s) John A. Prag  
Boardman

**Support Nicholes for port commissioner**

To the Editor:  
Following the lead of the Hermiton Herald, we wish to add our endorsement of Bruce Nicholes for Morrow County Port Commissioner Position 4.

Bruce is a man of integrity and has the best interests of our area at heart.

We feel his background in agriculture and business will enable him to lead Morrow County and the surrounding areas in sound economic development.

Sincerely,  
(s) Jack and Kay West  
P.O. Box 427  
Arlington, Oregon 97812

**Promises to help lead into future**

To the Editor:  
Before making a decision on who to elect for Port of Morrow Commission, perhaps a little history is in order. There was a time when the economy of our area was dependant on only farming and ranching. That was 20 years ago. Today the vast majority of our jobs are in the food processing industry. The largest part of our tax base comes from PGE.

As we look to the future, we need to decide what industries will bring steady growth to all of Morrow County. The last things we want to do is make a decision that will prevent us from growing and prospering. These choices are before us today. Some commissioners have put self-interests ahead of civic responsibility. People on the port commission should not be looking at mak-

ing a buck for themselves, but should be seeking new industries. Our port should be a source of new jobs, not a garbage dump.

My qualifications for the Port of Morrow are simple. I own and operate a successful business in Morrow County. I know finance, marketing and promotion from the ground up. As Morrow County grows, my business will grow. But I want all of Morrow County to grow, not just the part in my backyard. And finally, I won't bore you with stories from 20 years in the past, but will help lead you into the 20 years of our future.

(s) Richard A. Cappotto  
candidate for Port of Morrow  
Commission  
Boardman, OR

**Heppner has opportunity to pull out of economic downturn**

To the Editor:  
It's not very often that a small community in a rural area gets the opportunity to pull itself out of an economic downturn. Residents of the City of Heppner find themselves in that exact position today as they consider the pros and cons of underwriting a bond issue to renovate the old Heppner Hotel into the St. Patrick's Hotel and Senior Citizen Center.


Now is the time for the City to recognize that the traditional support base for a viable downtown economy

is shifting from agriculture to those industries such as forestry, governmental agencies and the retirement business.

The demand for housing for our retirement community will more than support such a project. Proper management and affordable accommodations will put a new spark of life into our community. Let's not pass this opportunity up because of fear. Study the issues and plan for the future.

Sincerely  
(s) Louis Carlson  
Morrow County Judge

**VOTE**



**X Bristow X Lindsay X Goodyear**

**They'll Work for You**

**On The**

**Port of Morrow**

**Commission**

**Vote March 31 for South**

**Morrow County Representation**

**On the Port of Morrow**

Paid for by Ione Agri-Business Organization and Heppner Chamber of Commerce

**MORROW COUNTY WHEAT GROWERS LEAGUE**

**SPRING MEETING**

**DINNER**

Compliments OWGL  
Public Invited

Friday March 27th, 7p.m.

Willows Grange, Ione

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