

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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Residents asked to respond to request for dam investigation

To the Editor:
This is a copy of a letter being sent to all of our Congressional Delegates, Senator Timms and Representative Ray French, in response to the allegations being circulated as to the integrity of the Willow Creek Dam, and to the credibility of the Army Corps of Engineers.

Dear Senator Hatfield:
We have all heard the kindergarten story "The Sky is Falling! The Sky is Falling!". By now, you have probably heard that there in Heppner "The Dam is Breaking! The Dam is Breaking!"

The Eugene Register Guard has received a considerable amount of notoriety of late from the expose of the crumbling Willow Creek Dam. The majority of the citizens consider this allegation the epitome of irresponsible journalism. The Corps of Engineers have assured us that there is absolutely no danger of the Willow Creek Dams' failure.

One result of the unwanted publicity is that a considerable amount of uncertainty has been generated in the Willow Creek Valley. So-called authorities from the local barber shop and bridge clubs have reported absolute truths that they have heard, members of the Corps of Engineers staff have given independent evaluations contrary to the official press releases by the Corps and all of the news wire services have quoted all of the above in providing the dam is likely to fail by the end of the week.

The Corps of Engineers came to Heppner this week and conducted a press conference which only added to the fuel of the burning issue. The question now is not only the integrity of the dam but the credibility of the Corps of Engineers.

We in Morrow County are experimenting many adverse effects from the scandalous reporting. Property values on Willow Creek are being questioned. Prospective residents of the soon-to-be finished

retirement center in down town Heppner are questioning their safety, and Kinzua Corporation, a lumber company which is located directly below the dam, is wondering how much their flood insurance will cost if insurance will be available.

Other communities in the United States that are below similar roller compacted dams are no doubt experiencing the same pains that we in Morrow County are enduring.

Responsible officials in this county are confident that the Corps is telling us the truth. We feel that the Corps has established a record of excellence in dam building. For the most part, they have at their disposal the best engineers available in the world. Nevertheless, their credibility has been challenged by the press and the jury is still out in this community.

The governing body of Morrow County has instructed me to contact all of you to enlist your assistance in urging the Corps of Engineers to place this matter in top priority. We also are asking that the Corps engage the services of an independent research firm or organization to review their data and analysis and, if necessary, to conduct an independent investigation on the physical soundness of the structure and the effect of the erosion of the concrete from the leakage.

We are convinced that this is the only way that the peace of mind of our local residents and the credibility of the Corps will be restored and property values stabilized. We also expect that in the very near future a clear and concise statement will be made by responsible parties of the Corps and of the review team as to the integrity of the Willow Creek Dam.

I will be expecting to hear from you so that we can share your observations with our constituents.

Sincerely,
(s) Louis A. Carlson
Morrow County Judge

Let's send Smith back to Congress

To the Editor:
Like many of us environmentalists, Congressman Bob Smith is sometimes torn between ecological considerations and practicality for the people's best interests.

One such dilemma arises from the silver fire damage, a situation where the salvaging of burned, dead trees could yield tremendous economic rewards to the wood industry so important to Oregon's well-being, versus a temporary, minimal, artificial interference with preferably-pristine

public property in the form of readily abandonable access roads.

Bob Smith decided in favor of salvaging valuable timber, knowing that benefits to the state's most conspicuous industry puts payroll dollars into the hands of all Oregon workers and their families--and knowing that nature will restore a wilderness condition to the Silver area in a relatively short time.

So let's send Bob Smith back to Congress.

(s) Philo S. King
Medford, OR 97501

D.A.'s Report

The Morrow County District Attorney's office at the courthouse in Heppner reports handling the following business during the past week:
The following persons entered Guilty Pleas before Morrow County Circuit Court Judge Jack F. Olsen in Heppner on September 15:

Jody Allen, 20, of Hermiston, plead guilty to Attempted Assault in the Second Degree as a result of an incident in Irrigon on April 27, 1988. A pre-sentence investigation was ordered and sentencing is set for October 24, 1988.

Ladd Kanyid, 27, of Irrigon, entered a guilty plea to Driving While Revoked, Felony. A pre-sentence investigation was ordered and Sentencing was set for October 24, 1988.

Kathy Spring, 29, of Irrigon, entered a guilty plea to Possession of a Controlled Substance. A pre-sentence investigation was ordered and Sentencing was set for October 24, 1988.

Teresa Suitter, of Irrigon entered a guilty plea to Possession of a Controlled Substance. A pre-sentence investigation was ordered and sentencing is set for October 24, 1988.

Jay Suitter, 33, of Irrigon, entered a guilty plea to Frequenting a Place Where Controlled Substances are kept. He was sentenced to one year bench probation, restitution for court-appointed attorney's fees, fined \$150.00, \$20.00 for benefit of Crime Victims Compensation Account, and required to obey all laws as a condition of his probation.

Justice Court Report

The Justice Court office at the courthouse annex building in Heppner reports handling the following business during the past week:
David Lee Major, Springfield-Violation of the Basic Rule, 70 mph in a 35 mph zone, 200 fine;

Larry Delno Hughes, Pilot Rock-Illegal Backing, \$17 fine;

Steven Bennie Weigel, Canby-Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants, License Suspended for 365 days, 80 hours of community service.

Dam Funny



All the fuss over the Willow Creek Dam makes me chuckle.

We've known all along that the dam was pure pork-barrel boon doggie from the start - a flood control dam, built on the wrong creek at a cost four or five times greater than the value of all the property protected. The irrigation component delivers water at a cost far greater than any other method including trucking. The recreation component is just now coming about with a park that would be better built in any number of places in the county. A boat ramp at Willow Creek Dam puddle is like a diving board over a bath tub.

The dam itself is an experiment in a new construction technique, a failure, plain to see. But then that's the way with developing new things, the first efforts usually fail. The failure, however, is not complete. The dam thing is still there. Leaking away but still there.

And now some third rate reporter digs up an old memo that raises the issue of safety. On a slow day that's front page news. Bam! Mass hysteria. The media and politicians go crazy over something as plain as the nose on your face. If the safety of the thing hadn't occurred to anyone before now it is only because they didn't see the dam leak.

Well, that's the way with pork-barrel boon doggie. It's designed to squander a lot of tax money on something that isn't worth a tenth of the cost, and which hopefully will go wrong so the same politicians that promoted it can now investigate it and fix it. If it's a good boon doggie, maybe it will go wrong often and require lots of fixing.

Now, of course, the fix is an "independent" investigation. That's the kind that costs the most, takes the longest and is most likely to come to the same conclusion as the politician ordering it. He's the hero, gets the good press, and is first in line for the next fixing.

The Corps of Army Engineers is wondering "Where's Olie when ya need him?"

Letters to the Editor

One solution to the dam problem

To the Editor:
As a property owner and a part-time resident of Heppner, I would suggest that the water held behind the dam be released, allowing Willow creek to flow once again in its own channel. In the event of a cloudburst in any of the canyon's above Heppner, the flood gates of the dam could be closed, holding back the water flow of Willow Creek and Balm Fork, until the Hinton Creek and Shobe Canyon flow reced-

ded, then the water behind the dam could be released again.

Should a large break occur, the vast amount of water held behind the dam poses a threat not only to Heppner but to the entire Willow Creek valley. The loss of life and property would be astronomical.

Why not alleviate the anxiety, the fear and the danger by simply releasing the water.

(s) Merle Loyd
St. Helens

Smith gets the job done

To the Editor:
The state of Oregon as well as the United States and the world at large are in a very volatile period. In times like this integrity, honesty, commitment to stated goals and objectives, coupled with experience and proven track record, are much needed qualities of those elected to governmental office.

Men like Bob Smith are not easy to find. His record of performance for the people of his district is very high. It is not possible for any legislator to please all of the people all of the time. His job is to represent fairly the majority of the electorate the majority of the time. Bob

Smith has a track record that bears this out well. We can't afford the luxury of on the job training for a comparatively unknown novice to the legislative process.

Therefore a vote for Bob Smith is not only a vote for a continuation of a good track record; it is also a way of saying thanks for a job well done.

Thanks Bob! Keep up the good work in '89 & '90. We like the way you keep us informed about what is going on and how we can help you do your job better.

Sincerely,
(s) Vince Armstrong
2032 Alamar
Medford, Oregon 97501

Seniors need a friend like Bob Smith

To the Editor:
Seniors need to keep a strong friend like Bob Smith in Congress. His yes vote supporting the Older American Act insured such vital services as bathing, dressing, eating, mobility, senior centers, nutrition programs and abuse prevention. His yes vote helped extend Medicare coverage by lowering deductible's which provided seniors with affordable long term health care plans and out of pocket costs. His yes vote supported the Housing and Community Development Act which means jobs for Oregon's wood Products in-

dustrial and aid to seniors. The children and grand children of seniors face a mortgaged future of Federal deficit's. Bob Smith consistently vote no against taxes, waste full spending and liberal fiscal policies that can affect our personal budgets and long term savings for years to come.

I'm concerned for myself and my family. My vote will be yes for Bob Smith.

(s) Bob Allen
26565 Hwy 62
Trail, OR 97541
878-2747

Smith abhors deficit spending

To the Editor:
To those who closely watch the activities of the U.S. Congress, Oregon Representative Bob Smith has shown himself to be outstanding as a strong, kindly, caring, tough-minded, active advocate of the most feasible means of solving problems of the people, for the people.

Bob Smith's advocacy includes national debt reduction by reducing national spending to attain a balanced budget. He abhors deficit spending, and he stresses that no individual, no family, and no nation can long survive that practice. His agricultural and his trade policies will keep Oregon farm, ranch and wood-product enterprises cost-effective and profitable to Oregonians.

And all Americans can gain by his support of national defense combined with arms reduction--in strength and in balance; by his environmental concerns for both present and future; and by his eminent ability to

confront and counter the ever-ongoing onslaught of newly-arising state and national exigencies.

Let's cast a vote for Bob Smith on November 8.

(s) Peggy Pearce
2620E Barnett Road
Medford, OR 97501
772-5552

Hospital Notes

Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner reports admitting and discharging the following patients during the past week:

James Smith, admitted September 35; discharged September 26.

Patients discharged were:

Sandi Hanna, Heppner-discharged Sept. 25; and

Lori Moeller, Heppner-discharged Sept. 25.

Patients still receiving care as of press time were:

Don Chase, admitted Sept. 27.

Soft Spots CLEARANCE

Starts Thurs., Oct. 16

30 to 50% off Selected Styles

SHOE BOX

HEPPNER 143 N. MAIN 676-5211

TALK-N-TOPS 676-5241

D.A.'s Report

The District Attorney's office at the courthouse in Heppner reports handling the following business during the past week:

Robert Duane Coles, 19, appeared for arraignment, September 30, before Judge Ralph Currin on the charge of Failure to Appear. Entry of plea is set for October 7, 1988.

Rodney Gene Blackburn, 24, Irri-gon, appeared for arraignment on September 30, 1988 before Judge Ralph Currin on the charge of Assault in the fourth degree. Entry of plea is set for October 7, 1988.

Shane Gonzles, 20, Irrigon, appeared for arraignment on September 30, 1988 before Judge Ralph Currin on the charges of Violation of a Restraining Order. Entry of plea is set for October 7, 1988, in Hermiston District Court.



The tallest woman basketball player was Juliana Semenova who played on the 1976 Russian Olympic team and stands seven feet two inches tall.

Join the Holly Rebecca Lodge at a BENEFIT

for Donna Papineau at the Holly Rebecca Lodge, Lexington **Saturday, October 8, 1988**
Pie & Coffee 6:00-7:30 p.m.- \$1.00
Bingo with prizes 7:30-??
(Bingo 25¢ a card)

Donations may also be sent c/o the Donna Papineau Fund; Holly Rebecca Lodge, Lexington or to the Bank of Eastern Oregon, Heppner.

Court Street Market
CHECK OUR EVERYDAY LOW PRICES
WHERE YOUR DOLLAR MAKES MORE CENTS

Western Family Dinner
Macaroni & Cheese 7 1/4 oz. **2 for 79¢**

Van Camp's
Pork & Beans 16 oz. **2 for 99¢**

Star Kist chunk lite
Tuna 6 1/2 oz. **1 st. 37¢ ea.**

Beef
Cube Steak **\$2.39 lb.**

Smoked
Ham Shanks **\$1.00 lb.**

Fresh
Celery **29¢ lb.**

Fresh Green
Broccoli **59¢ lb.**

Prices good Oct. 6 - 10
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK - 7 A.M. - 6 P.M.

Court Street Market
111 N. Court Heppner 676-9643

Betty Crocker
Burger Helpers **\$1.39 ea.**

(81%)
Ground Beef **\$1.49 lb.**

Lettuce **2 for 79¢**

OREGON LOTTERY