

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

GAZETTE-TIMES
Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper

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Letters to the Editor

French faces tough opponent in Nelson

To the Editor,
I'm disgusted by the dirty campaigning going in the presidential race, but it's even worse to see Ray French, our own state representative, using the same tactics. I just received a piece of mail from French, mailed from Salem, that is misleading and downright false. The letter says that Mike Nelson, French's opponent, opposes the spending limit, and will vote to increase taxes. Those two statements are lies.

Mike Nelson has said publicly that he will never vote to repeal the spending limit, and that he opposes any new taxes. So where does French get the right to lie about Mike Nelson? I have the feeling that the lobbyists in Salem who want French re-elected have told French to do this. It's too bad he listened to them.

Sincerely,
(s) David W. Bobo
Insurance Executive
Baker, Oregon

Seat Belt law shows lack of respect

To the Editor:
Senator Jane Cease's letter Gazette-Times 9-21-88 clearly shows Seat Belt Law proponent's lack of respect for the rights and welfare of others. They attempt to create a law with partial and fabricated information, by deceit. She states: (The national Highway Administration reports, that in the 32 states with adult belt laws, 6600 lives have been saved.) That is nothing but fabrication as there are many unknown facts and it is usually next to impossible to tell if a seat belt saved a life or took a life.

She states: (In Oregon nine out of 10 killed in traffic accidents in 1986 were not wearing safety belts.) She fails to state why, the fact in 1986 only about one in 10 used seat belts. You can not kill what is not there. We are constantly told seat belts save lives, and seldom if ever that seat belt also take lives. This partial information causes some people to overly depend on seat belts and become careless, causing accidents. Over rating the safety factor of seat belts is very dangerous and damaging, it kills. Anyone using a seat belt should fully understand it's good and

it's bad points. To fail to do so can kill and so should be fully and correctly informed.

As for reducing injuries nearly 50%. No way. A study of insurance claims in eight states, with seat belt laws show no clear cut pattern of reduced accidents. It showed in most states injury claims increased both in number and size.

She states: (Governor Goldschmidt put it this way. The seat belt law will save lives and that's worth doing.) We accept regulation for a false claim, and in fact to make money for the auto industry. No, way.

Seat belt cause accident by creating anger in some people, false security in others and distraction in others. Wrecked auto are usually repaired or replaced, and there is profit in it.

One does not attempt to deceive those he respects and deceit is not needed to sell a good thing. There is very little chance this seat belt law will save lives or money.

Thank you,
(s) Earl F. May
Heppner, OR 97836

Smith supports fight against drugs

To the Editor:
I wish to thank Congressman Bob Smith for his tremendous support of Southern Oregon law enforcement in its fight against drug manufacturers and dealers. Bob Smith was instrumental in convincing the Drug Enforcement Administration to open an office in Medford, thus providing the area with a federal presence that has been sorely needed for some time. Currently, two DEA agents staff the Medford office. With Congressman Smith's help, we can expect to see additional agents in the Southern Oregon area in the near

future. Bob Smith also was a strong backer of the Omnibus Drug Initiative Act of 1988. Key provisions of the act will increase funding for the DEA, the FBI, the Federal Prison System, the Coast Guard and Customs Service. Additional aid is earmarked for distribution to state and local law enforcement agencies for use in combatting drug dealers. Oregon needs to retain a committed professional like Bob Smith.

(s) William Juba
Medford, OR

Support your community

To the Editor:
We are writing this letter in response to Ed Glenn's column in your newspaper dated October 12, 1988. The problems he speaks of are prevalent in every small town in this

area. We people of Heppner would do well to recognize the situation and support our community in the ways Mr. Glenn advocates.

(s) Fred Toombs
Heppner Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors

Information on Nelson misleading

To the Editor:
Ray French, in his bid for state representative, faces a tough opponent in Mike Nelson. Nelson has run a hard, upbeat campaign, and is seriously threatening French's seat. I was upset to find that French is responding with a smear campaign against Nelson. This week, French mailed a brochure that says, "Mike Nelson opposes the spending limit," and that he will raise taxes. In the brochure, French gives no real facts that would indicate Nelson opposes the spending limit, other than saying he supports the governor. Does French really think the voters are that stupid?

I've known Mike Nelson a long time, and I've seen him run a successful business through a severe recession in Baker. He didn't do it by being a "big spender". He did it because he is fiscally conservative, and he knows the value of a dollar. Mike Nelson met a payroll through several lean years.

Furthermore, I've heard Mike say that he opposes any new taxes, and that he will never vote to repeal the spending limit. That doesn't sound like a "big spender" to me. I wish French would stick to the issues, or at least the truth.

Sincerely,
(s) Warren Whitnah, D.M.D.
Baker, OR

French has a proven record

To the Editor:
We have known Ray French for many years and have found his integrity above reproach. Ray French works hard for us. He has a proven record-it is built on accomplished acts not campaign promises.

We don't have to wonder who Ray French answers to, we know. He answers to the People of Central and Eastern Oregon.

Let's keep taxes down-vote for Ray French and re-elect him as our State Legislator for District #59.

Sincerely,
(s) John Edmundson
Pat Edmundson
Heppner, OR 97836

Fair board proposes new lighting system

To the Editor:
The Morrow County Fair Board wishes to begin a project which would include you, community organizations, and other sports-minded people to actively participate in planning, designing, and financing new field lights and a multi-purpose sports field at the Morrow County Fairgrounds.

The present field lights were installed in the mid-50's. They have long served their use and are outdated and in need of extensive repairs or replacement. The fairgrounds arena is utilized at present for school football, baseball and rodeo.

It is time to explore additional useage and updating of this facility.

Smith works for Oregonians

To the Editor:
We must retain Bob Smith as our representative in the Second Congressional District. Leadership, knowledge, and integrity should not be exchanged for an unknown quantity. We cannot afford that.

Bob Smith works for what is best for Oregonians and the nation as well. He keeps us well informed

regarding issues both national and state and their effects.

A vote for Bob Smith is a vote for our future well being. He knows the issues and the problems and does something about them. He has proven himself as our representative.

We must retain Bob Smith. Give him your vote.
(s) George E. and Frances Hedorfer
Medford, OR 97504

concrete taken from the dam, then be briefed by Portland District engineers and scientists on the possible dissolution of the cement exposed to reservoir water seeping through the dam.

The team will also hear reports from Oregon State University and University of Washington scientists that are studying the reservoir water quality under contract with the Corps.

Pritchett said the team will not reach any conclusion during the Portland visit. They will make their findings known in a report to Hatfield after careful review of all data and reports. Compiling the report is expected to take approximately four weeks.

Sincerely
(s) Charles Daly
Morrow County Fair Board chairman
Merlyn Robinson
Bob McLaughlin
Harold Peck
Richard Ladd

"He Cares" is motto for Smith

To the Editor:
Rarely does a single, succinct, simple phrase precisely sum up an entire political and societal philosophy worthy of total bipartisan support.

"He Cares" is the motto of Congressman Bob Smith. It expresses significantly the guiding principal of his political actions—the way he feels about gaining the greatest good for Oregon constituents, which in turn dictates his policies and practices of political procedure. He means what he says, and he proves it in performance.

Bob Smith's record clearly shows a deep, underlying wisdom gained from insightful experience in Congress. He has amply demonstrated his skill at voting against deceptively attractive legislative bills in order to force revisions more beneficial to the majority. For the long term, for a team of specialists from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers arrived in Portland to begin an investigation into the immediate and long-term safety of Willow Creek Dam, at Heppner.

The investigation was requested by U.S. Sen. Mark O. Hatfield. The five-person study team is chaired by Ed Pritchett, chief of the Geotechnical and Civil Branch at the Corps headquarters in Washington, D.C. Other members include Joseph Lamond, concrete technology expert, and James Gottesman, civil engineer, both with the Corps headquarters; Don Dillon, management specialist from the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works; and Louis Tuthill, a private consultant specializing in concrete technology.

"Our task is to review the studies accomplished to date by the Corps of Engineers' Portland District, to review any ongoing and future studies, and to determine the immediate and long-term safety of the Willow Creek Dam," Pritchett said.

The team will inspect the dam structure and analyze samples of

Marriage License

The Morrow County Clerks office at the courthouse in Heppner reports issuing the following marriage licenses during the past week:

Todd Ryan Lindsay, 20, Lexington; and
Melissa Jean Turner, 20, Heppner.

We Have A Cancer



There's a cancer among us. Like many cancers, this one is disorganized, destructive and malignant. It threatens to consume us all. It can be treated though.

This cancer is the failure of the district school board and the district's teachers' union to reach agreement on a new contract. The old contract expired July 1, 1988. Negotiations on a new started more than a year ago with little progress to date.

The teachers are represented by a full-time, professional negotiator, as is the school district. Both must be compensated, we suspect on an hourly basis. It may well be then, that neither professional negotiator has a real interest in reaching an agreement.

One or more board members believe that the longer an agreement can be delayed, the more favorable it will be for the district. Some teachers have thus become more and more entrenched in their demands, even though they know some of them will never succeed.

And what really is happening is that the entire system is preoccupied with continuing negotiations and not fully occupied with the business of educating our children. The days we have already lost to this preoccupation are lost, never to be regained, at any price, nor at any savings.

Every agreement requires some give and take. So far it appears that neither the board nor the teachers are inclined to give, but only to take. Compromise, by definition, is a solution not wholly satisfactory to anyone.

Any reasonable observer, not involved, in the heat of the disagreement, could today forecast pretty closely where agreement will eventually be reached. And that same forecast could have been made a year ago.

As I see it, the ego, the hard feelings, the lost educational opportunity will only make an agreement harder and harder to reach as time goes on.

More importantly, further delay will cause worse consequences than the worse possible agreement by either side's interpretation.

Now is the time to quit playing games and get down to work.

French is doing a good job

To the Editor:
Ray French has done a good job representing the people of Eastern Oregon. So good that the liberals who are trying to gain control of the legislature want desperately to get rid of him.

They want to control both the House and the Senate so they can further restrict your water supply and your timber harvest, keep you from using your land as you see fit, and, especially, break the state spending limit and eliminate the refund of excess income taxes collected.

Ray has stood tough and tall on all of these issues.

Beware of those who are going to attack Ray and try to get you to vote against him. They can't stand people who stand up for you.

(s) John Schoon
State Representative and farmer
Rural Polk & Benton Counties

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GROWERS MEETING

Dupont Chemical Company to present new label changes for *Glean & Finesse*

Thursday - October 20 - 7 p.m.
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