

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

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Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association

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

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**Letters to the Editor**

**Kemp, Doherty deserve support**

To the Editor:  
Many people may not know that last May the Department of Education inspected Morrow County Schools. The outcome of the inspection was a rating of standard in all areas, which is the highest rating given, with many areas being commended for their outstanding practices and leadership. This was achieved after the disruption of a strike in March. What this means is that the students in Morrow County are receiving a quality education.

The School Board must continue to look ahead and lead, but one faction in the County believes otherwise. Since the strike the Board has had a Federal Court suit, a State Court suit, and Unfair labor practice, and now recall action filed against it. It is hard to concentrate on school business and plan for the future when being continually attacked from the rear.

The recall petition makes charges against the whole Board, but picks out only two for recall. Why, I do

not know? Under normal circumstances, a recall is for malfeasance in office, but the charges do not say this or attempt to prove this. It is hard to believe that all the people who signed the petition read the charges and realized they signed an indictment against the Board. Therefore, read what is on your ballot so you can judge for yourself the merit of a recall. If either or both Board members would be recalled there would be no special election to fill their positions. The remaining Board members would appoint their replacements. Unfortunately, the cost of this harassment must come out of the school budget.

I, for one, believe that the Board has carried out your wishes over the last year and these two members, Marcia Kemp and Bill Doherty, deserve your support.

Get the school year started right. Vote NO and mail your ballot now.  
(s) Jerry McElligott  
Member, Morrow County School Board

**Elect new boardmembers**

To the Editor:  
Ample petition signatures have been filed by Fresh Start to require a recall ballot for two Morrow County School Board members. Approximately 500 registered voters demonstrated the foresight and determination to help this process along by signing a recall petition. A few took time to review the petition and politely elected not to sign.

Fresh Start does not consider this action to be a contest in which there are winners and losers. This action is part of a process intended to change the direction of the Board of Education has chosen for Morrow

County Schools. It is the only legal method voters have to change representatives between regular elections.

Hopefully, a new combination of representatives will keep the District from retracing the disappointing path of the last two years. It is my opinion that we must elect new Board members with the ability to conduct direct District-teacher negotiations without the interference of OEA or OSBA representatives.

Sincerely,  
(s) Phyllis Gilbertson  
Box 278  
Boardman, OR

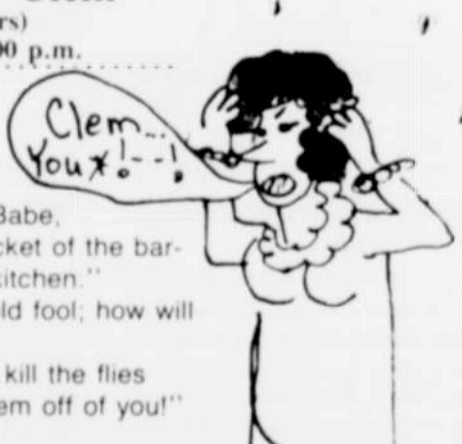
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**The Adventures of Grazelda & Clem**  
(After Hours)  
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Grazelda complained, "Gee Clem, these flies are terrible. Isn't there anything you can do?"  
Clem gushed, "Oh Gee Babe, I'll go out and get a bucket of the barnyard and set it in the kitchen."  
Grazelda scoffed, "You old fool, how will that kill the flies?"  
Clem guffawed, "It won't kill the flies Grez, but it will keep them off of you!"



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**LCDC is Frankenstein**

To the Editor:  
During the last legislative session, a majority of the legislators signed letters to the LCDC indicating their opposition to the severe restrictions on use of forest land being proposed by the LCDC. While the LCDC did delay action, now that the legislators have gone home, they have again announced a hearing on these restrictions and plans to adopt them this year.

It is apparent that the LCDC has become a Frankenstein over which the legislature has lost all control. The arrogance of most members of the LCDC and their total disregard

for the wishes of the people and the intent of the legislature are cause for their removal and replacement.

Oregon statutes provide the Governor with authority to remove members of the LCDC for cause. The failure of the Governor to remove them infers that he supports their action. It also proves that he is bed with the "Thousand Friends of Oregon" and supports its goal of stopping all home construction outside of the cities.

Sincerely,  
(s) Frank Windust, Jr.  
36039 E. Crown Point Hwy  
Corbett, OR 97019

**Vote no on recall**

To the Editor:  
I write this letter with a little indecision. Tina, Toni and myself would love to have our mother/wife home more often. But we are all willing to put up with the sacrifice of my cooking, lonely night, and Marcia's moods when late hours and numerous meetings are the order.

I feel Marcia has done a terrific job (as has the rest of the board) of educating Morrow County children. After all, the Oregon Department of Education commended the school district on its instructional programs during a recent standardization visit.

It is my contention that a minority of union backed radicals would like to rule Morrow County schools. I hope and pray that this county will

never let this happen. I urge you to vote no on the upcoming recall election.

(s) Gary Kemp  
Rt. 2  
Heppner

P.S. As I see it Ed, you always seem to get free circulation.

P.S.S. Kathleen, do you want represented by people with the attendance record of our newest board member (negotiable skills are neglected by non-attendance). And finally did you realize that the boards spokesman at the last negotiations was Joe Stevens, Personnel Director of Lamb-Weston in Boardman. It would seem that he would have possessed your so-called labor relations skills.

**Time for a change**

To the Editor:  
Voters in Morrow County are being asked whether Bill Doherty and Marcia Kemp, members of the Morrow County School Board, should be allowed to continue to serve in their positions, or if they should be removed from office prior to the expiration of their term. This recall is not the work of outsiders, as Mr. Doherty has stated. It is very much a local concern. There are significant numbers of voters in the county who feel that they are not being adequately represented. Many have attempted to state their position and views to Mr. Doherty and Mrs. Kemp and have not been given due

consideration.

I doubt that there is anyone in Morrow County who wanted things to come to this. I certainly did not. However, it is time for a change and this recall is Morrow County's opportunity to achieve that change.

I am asking each voter to weigh the circumstances of recent events in his or her own mind. If, as a Morrow County voter, you do not feel that you have been properly represented on our School Board, then I urge you to join me in voting for the recall.

(s) Laurie Jenks  
705 Mt. Adams  
Boardman

**Recall is only option**

To the Editor:  
The purpose of the board recall election is to return to better schools here through improved relations among the communities, administrators and teachers.

Moving from a background of good schools with good support from communities, confidence in district supts. and successful negotiations with teachers, we have changed in the past few years to a weakened education and failure in negotiations (contracts are still unsigned).

What caused this change? Those of us who put the recall on the ballot sincerely believe the major causes (not all but the main ones) were: 1) unsatisfactory leadership by the district supt. and 2) hiring a professional OSBA negotiator thus requiring one from OEA. Despite scheduled appearances by our representatives, phone calls, written messages and lists of signatures asking the board (and the supt. to use his influence) to avoid the strike, they all remained immovable.

In a democracy, only our elected board can remove these causes. A growing number of people feel that until these causes are removed, controversy and ill-feelings will continue, lowering further the quality of education we can offer our children and young people.

In a democracy these people should have representation on the board. Recall and replacement seems our only option if we are to avoid enduring a continued hassle for years.

A vote to recall is a vote to get a new supt. and to return to local negotiations between local board and our local teachers (No OSBA or OEA).

In a democracy, the voters decide. It is their responsibility and their

opportunity.

Sincerely,  
(s) Jane Rawlins  
Heppner

**Justice Court Report**

The Justice Court office at the courthouse annex in Heppner reports handling the following business during the past week:

Scott T. Poorman, 21, Hermiston-Exceeding the Maximum Speed, 80 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$160;

Bonnie D. Grant, 30, Heppner-Endangering a child, no seat belt, \$26;

Michael W. Grant, 42, Heppner-Open Container, beer, \$57;

Randy D. Rayburn, 21, Heppner-No ATV License, \$26;

Paul A. Hisler, 41, Heppner-Exceeding the Maximum Speed, 74 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$57;

Allan W. Hawthorne, 47, Aloha-Exceeding the Maximum Speed, 65 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$26;

Filemon Alvarez, 23, -no Operators License, \$110;

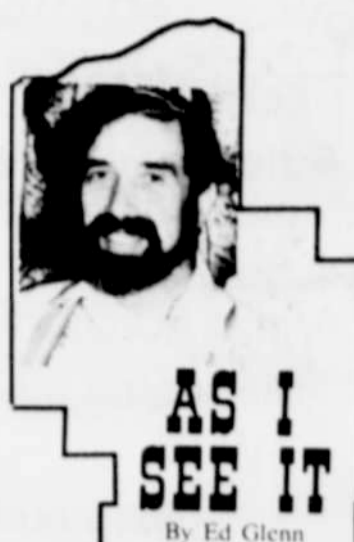
Amy L. Greenup, 16, Heppner-Failure to Yield Right of Way, \$31;

Reynold G. Ropp, 36, Bend-Operating an ATV on a Public Road, \$31;

Vilas D. Ropp, 32, Lexington-Operating an ATV on a Public Road, \$31;

Chester D. Koontz Jr., 28, Unity-Exceeding the Maximum Speed, 65 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$26.

**No On Recall**



Recall of a politician is the ultimate rejection, far more serious than mere rejection of a reelection bid. Because there is no opposing candidate, the vote is simply "yea" or "nay." Recall is much like saying, "any other politician is better than this one."

I think recall is appropriate when an office holder is a crook, involved in fraud, taking bribes, or otherwise engaging in conduct that eminently threatens the safety of the public charge. For example, I think a County Treasurer who systematically steals from taxpayer receipts should be recalled.

I don't, however, think recall is appropriate where there is simply a difference of opinion about political philosophy.

As I see it, that is the case with the current recall election involving School Board members Bill Doherty and Marcia Kemp. Reading the Official Ballot statements for demanding recall and the responses thereto does nothing to shed light on the real issues. In my view, these two directors have become merely the scapegoats of a political philosophy shared equally by all members of the board and incidentally by a majority of the voters in Morrow County.

The real issue, I believe, centers around compensation for teachers. The majority view, reflected by the board, is that teachers, especially those with experience and advanced training should not be compensated as well in Morrow County as they would be in most other similarly sized districts across the State of Oregon. That view is supported by the belief that those who have devoted their lives to the education of children, advanced their own education to that purpose, further advanced their learning through years of doing, can and are doing no better at the job than just any person off the street.

Oh to be sure, there are minor justifications. "Real teachers don't strike." "Real teachers don't walk picket lines." "There are thousands of good teachers out there to replace our own." "Real teachers don't bring in outside negotiators to represent them." "I'm glad to see all the teachers leave the district, if they don't want to live here, we don't need them." "Morrow County can't afford to pay comparable wages." "Our kids can't read." "I don't care about credentials, all a teacher has to be is warm and caring."

The subject board members simply hold the point of view that the comparative value of teachers, especially those with advanced education and experience, is relatively low. I think the remaining board members and the majority of voters hold the same view. The proponents of recall hold a different point of view. In my view, that is not a compelling reason for recall. Even if the two board members were recalled, the remaining board members would appoint their replacements. It is likely that the replacements with the same point of view would be selected. I think it highly unlikely that a change of philosophy could be effected by recall of less than an entire board.

Is this a two-faced person on my part? I think not, given my belief that the board including the two subject members, accurately reflects the majority view. I think the goal should be to change the majority view, not merely oust a couple of board members. I think there is much that can be done to do so.

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