

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

**ONPA**

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: \$15 in Morrow, Wheeler, Gilliam and Grant Counties; \$23 elsewhere.

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**Letters to the Editor**

**Support the motel tax**

To the Editor:

I have a question for the opponents of the proposed motel tax. When you go out of town, either for business or pleasure, do you realize that you pay a motel tax and that this very tax goes to improve the community where you are staying? Much of that tax from your pocket helps these towns and cities to fund economic development and run their visitor and convention bureaus. In Heppner, it would do the same thing. Why not let visitors pay this, thus helping your community as you often help theirs?

The events and activities such as Cycle Oregon, St. Patrick's Celebration, Rodeo Parade, Christmas lighting project, hotel project, RV project, state fair booth, Heppner brochures, county brochures and placemats, lunch with Santa, etc., which increase business are all supported by the chamber either with volunteer time or money. Hiring a manager who believes in the community means continuity from year to year. It's important to have a phone number and address that doesn't change everytime a new president goes into office. The manager's job has no medical benefits and the "hourly" wages vary depending on how often the job goes home; wages are two office days per week.

The benefits are working with and getting to know people who are willing to volunteer to make Heppner a better place to live and work.

I invite you to visit with me or chamber members about what you feel chamber should be doing, how I spend my time, our goals and budget. Currently, we

try to promote good working relationships with Heppner retailers, county and city government, HEDC, the schools, other county chambers, the ranching community, Port of Morrow, senior citizens, park district, health services and organizations. While many chambers kept all the Cycle Oregon funds for themselves, our chamber and city elected to share it among volunteer organizations involved who worked hard. Had the \$14,000 been set aside, the chamber might not need to be asking for a motel tax now. It is hoped that by having a manager continue to work for Chamber, more of these opportunities will come along to be shared within the community.

The motel owner will receive a percentage for implementing the tax, thus earning more, not less, for his business. A day seldom passes that Chamber doesn't give a caller the phone number of the motel or bed and breakfast.

You can be sure that should Heppner Chamber ever have excess funds, they would go right back into the community. That's what the Heppner Chamber of Commerce is about... a non-profit organization dedicated to creating a positive environment where people and business thrive. Please write letters of support for the motel tax to be enacted by the city council, so that visitors can contribute to our community as we do to theirs.

Thank you,  
(s) Claudia Hughes

**Bond measure critical for community**

To the Editor:

At the March 9 city council meeting the council directed the city administrator and the city attorney to prepare a 10 year Capital Improvement Bond measure for voter consideration at the June 30, 1992 election. This bond measure is absolutely critical for the future of this community.

The statewide press has reported extensively on how many cities escaped Ballot Measure 5 cutbacks. This is not the case in Heppner. Out of 240 cities in Oregon, Heppner has experienced the third largest percentage cutback. All totaled, the city has had its collectible tax base reduced by 40 percent. This is why the city's proposed budget for 1992-93 shows the elimination of one police officer and all police equipment, the elimination of all fire equipment, the closure of the city library, and the closure of the swimming pool. (The pool also has some severe structural and safety problems).

If approved by voters, the proposed bond measure will allow the city to maintain, over the long term, a fire department and a police department. Ballot Measure 5 has completely eliminated the funds the city once used for these needs. Without adequate funding to replace equipment these departments will wither away as their existing equipment breaks down or becomes outmoded or unreliable. Already, our main pumper truck at the fire department cannot pump water at its specified level. This truck is now 31 years old. Due to the increasing odds of mechanical breakdowns as age increases, most fire departments will discard a truck after 20 years to assure that their equipment is reliable. Imagine if your house caught on fire and this old truck broke down before it reached you. I don't think any of us want to live with this kind of risk.

Some people have said that the city should not include police equipment in this measure. Let's think about this for a minute. Do we really want to depend on the Morrow County Sheriff for police protection? We've been told in the past that the city would receive only bare-bones coverage by the sheriff. How many of us want to wait for 15 minutes, a half hour or longer for police pro-

tection to arrive if our lives are in danger? How many of us want to tell the world that "Heppner is open for crime" because we have eliminated our police department? Well, if we don't have the funds to equip a police department, we eventually won't be able to have one.

A point worth stressing is that only 16.6 percent of the measure is committed to police equipment, a small price to pay for 10 years worth of equipment. (81.2 percent of the bond is for fire equipment and 2.2 percent is for administration.) Also, with the reduction in manpower at the police department, the city will be reducing from two squad cars to one, and all other equipment needs have been down-moded from a three-man force to a two man force. Yes, it's true the bond measure will fund a new Multi-departmental car in 1999 that could be used by the police. Here again, I think most of us want to know that, if our lives or property are in immediate danger, the police will be able to respond in force. Having access to the Multi-Departmental vehicle will allow our off-duty officer to provide back-up in the event of a dangerous situation. This car will also be used by other city departments and, as such, will allow the city to eliminate not only the one police car, but also the city fire car. The end result is fewer automobiles and more efficient use of tax dollars.

In fiscal year 1993-94, the city will pay off a bond measure passed by the voters in 1974 for development of our water system. It is worth noting that paying off this old bond will offset about half of the cost of the proposed bond. So, after fiscal 1993-94, our city taxes won't be much different than they are right now, and we will have been able to save critical public safety services. And, our overall city taxes will remain over 20 percent lower than before ballot Measure 5. Now, that's a deal we can't afford to pass up.

Heppner is a great place to live. But, ballot Measure 5 threatens to cripple our community in some very critical areas. Let's all work together to assure that Heppner remains a safe and livable place.

Sincerely,  
(s) Kathryn E. Robinson  
Mayor

**Recession forced upon ourselves**

To the Editor:

Today we have an economy with many Oregonians out of work. Why?

It is not entirely because of factors beyond our control; to a large degree we have forced this recession on ourselves.

Under the pretense of saving the spotted owl, the preservationists have emasculated the timber industry and their good paying jobs, they are holding up the westside bypass around Portland and the thousands of jobs which this would create, and they have stopped the Mt. Hood recreational project and dozens more around the state.

One factor most depressing our economy is the restrictive and oppressive Oregon land use regulatory system. This prevents thousands of landowners from building homes on their own land. It prevents many small businesses from getting started because of unreasonable zoning regulation. The high land costs resulting from present land use

laws has raised housing costs out of the reach of many low and middle income Oregonians.

The cumulative effect of the system is to shut down jobs of construction workers, mill workers and loggers; however, it filters down to all business, including the corner grocery store.

In the 1930 era we went through a real depression which was the result of circumstances beyond our control. Today we are forcing a recession upon ourselves largely because of our own choosing.

When will we ever learn?  
(s) Herbert & Shirley Carnahan  
12730 NE Flett Road  
Gaston, OR 97119

**Good Ideas**

Good ideas are like gold, they're where you find them. No one person, group or ideology has a monopoly on good ideas, everyone has one now and then.

Governor Barbara Roberts had a good idea in her "Conversation with Oregon." Time will tell how well she used it. But the idea of using telephone, television and computers to have a face-to-face, eyeball-to-eyeball with tens of thousands of Oregonians is like a breath of fresh air in the Governor's mansion.

Locked up in a Salem office, the Governor can become so jaded in outlook by the daily contact with bureaucrats and legislators that the potential for losing contact with real people is great. Roberts' "Conversation with Oregon" must have given her an entirely new point of view of the real people of Oregon.

Jerry Brown has a good idea. His 800 telephone number is an exciting new link with the people. Of course, he hopes you will write a \$100 contribution on your credit card when you call, but even that is a real change from financing a campaign with millions of PAC dollars. What other presidential candidate works hard to make sure you know his phone number?

I think "Conversation with Oregon" and 800 telephone numbers are good ideas because government has drifted too far away from the governed. The average, ordinary people whose lives are impacted every day by one governmental decision or another are systematically excluded from the process.

That can even be true on the local level too. City councilmen and county commissions can easily get the attitude that they know better about what the people need than even the people they serve. They can get puffed up with their own importance and lose sight of their real source of authority, "the consent of the governed."

You see this arrogance expressed in different ways. An office tucked away down the hall behind closed doors. A front office secretary with whom you have to make an appointment. A meeting schedule so tight that there's never time for one-on-one conversation.

You see it in power struggles and personal strategies and single issue platforms. Rarely do these agendas truly serve the people, but rather serve the politician.

Some folks are really interested in economic development but most of us are concerned about other things as well such as roads, health care, taxes, land use and the scope of governmental intrusion in our lives. Single issue candidates rarely serve the people well since all their energy is squandered on that one issue. People are all different, with different worries and concerns. It takes a person with a wide range of interests, a broad sense of perspective and a good sense of humor to deal with all the issues of government.

Some folks think it's important to be chairman of some group or another, but others are more interested in just how that group impacts life in the real world. People who are more concerned with who or what they've been seldom serve the people as well as those more interested in what they can do.

Some politicians think attending a meeting of 30 or 40 people is important (and sometimes it is) but taking time to listen to just one person on the street or in a coffee shop somewhere is also important. After all, it is that person on the street who will likely talk about what really bothers him. Politicians must spend at least as much time listening as they do talking.

Representative government must be just that: representative. If politicians, national, state and local, don't represent the people they govern, then the whole idea breaks down. The good idea is one that preserves the vision and avoids the isolation that is always a bad idea.

We could boil down the good ideas of Governor Roberts and Jerry Brown in a single word: access. All of us could do with better access to our political leaders.

My phone number is 481-3151.



**Justice Court Report**

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

Terry Gene Edmondson, 44, Boise, ID-Improper Right Turn from Wrong Lane, \$22 fine;

Donald Paul Christman, 26, Heppner-Exceeding the Maximum Speed Limit, 71 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$46 fine;

Richard Wilson Keefer, 75, Canby-Exceeding the Maximum Speed Limit, 71 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$46 fine;

Melvin Monroe McDaniel, 46, Heppner-Defective Equipment, \$56 fine by default;

Johnnie Albert Thomas, 61, Hermiston-Exceeding the Maximum Speed Limit, 68 mph in a 55 mph zone, 46 fine;

Billy Eugene Gentry, 63,

Heppner-Careless Driving, \$126 fine;

William Keith Cazier, 20, Stanfield-Exceeding the Maximum Speed Limit, 65 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$22 fine;

Linda Rae Tullis, 42, Ione-Careless Driving, \$126 fine;

Amy Lyn Greenup, 18, Heppner-Exceeding the Maximum Speed Limit, 80 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$108 fine.

**Weather Report**  
by City of Heppner

March 18 - 24, 1992 High Low Prec Rain		
Tues.	67 48	.0
Weds.	68 46	.18
Thurs.	62 48	.02
Fri.	56 26	.0
Sat.	55 31	.0
Sun.	63 37	.0
Mon.	62 39	.0
Total precipitation for March was .81		

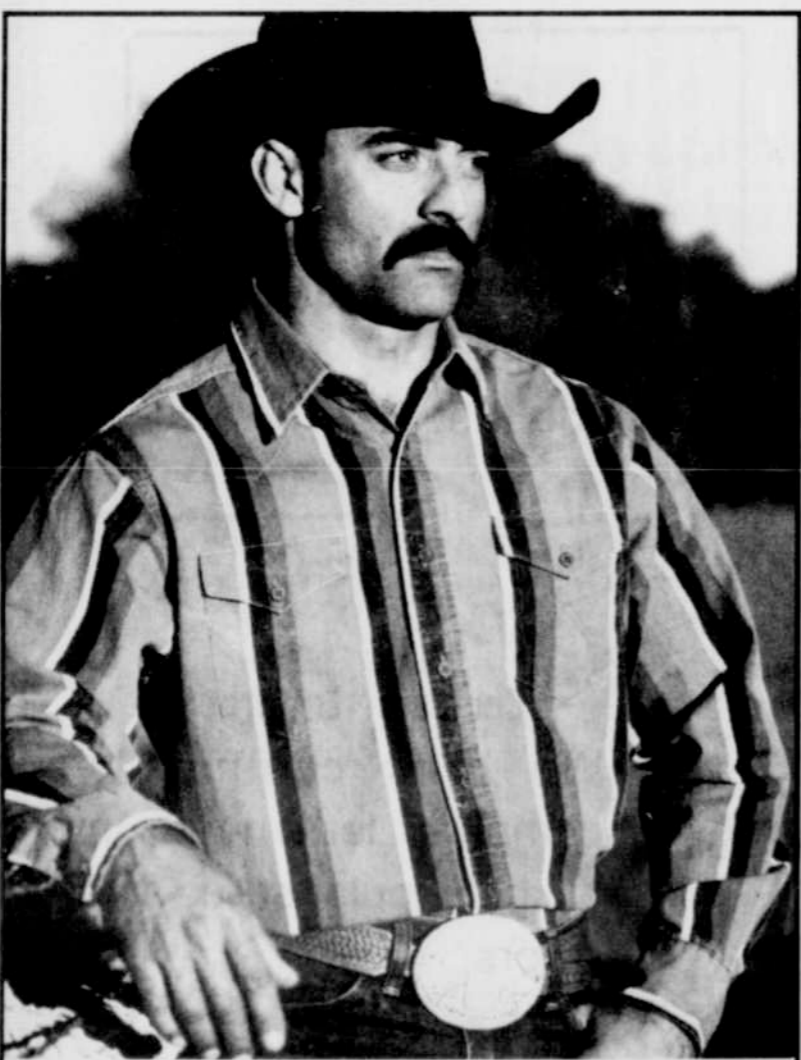
**Court Street Market**

111 N. Court Heppner 676-9643

Prices Good April 1st through 7th

**GROCERIES - MEATS - PRODUCE**

Boneless Pork Chops	\$2.99 lb.	Red Potatoes	39¢ lb.
Beef Shoulder Clod	\$2.00 lb.	Red Delicious Apples	59¢ lb.
Boneless Beef Ribs	\$2.19 lb.	Lettuce	2 heads for 99¢
Beef Rib Steak	\$3.19 lb.	12 pack, 12oz. cans	Pepsi \$3.99 +dep.
Turkey Cutlets	\$1.69 lb.	Western Family Thin Slice 2.5oz.	Beef-Turkey-Chicken-Ham reg. 59¢ ea. 2 for 88¢
Hills Sliced Bacon	\$1.99 lb.	Lunch Meat	reg. 59¢ ea. 2 for 88¢
Banquet 9oz. Fried Chicken	reg. \$3.99 \$2.99 ea.	Snow's minced or chopped 6 1/2oz.	Clams reg. \$1.99 79¢ ea.
Banquet 28oz. T.V. Dinners	reg. \$1.99 \$1.00 ea.	Purina Happy Cat 48oz.	Cat Food reg. \$4.99 \$2.99 ea.
Celery	30¢ lb.	Welch Grape 32 oz.	Jelly reg. \$2.99 \$1.99 ea.
		Western Family 10lb.	Sugar \$4.99 \$3.99 ea. bag



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