

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

Heppner
GAZETTE-TIMES

U.S.P.S. 240-420

Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper
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Letters to the Editor

Big hand to council members

To the Editor:
A big hand to the three council people that are standing up for the taxpayers: Martha Doherty, Chuck Holt, David Pranger.

Come on city taxpayers, they can't do it alone. Don't be afraid to voice your opinion.

Sincerely,
(s) Jessie Scott

Never too late to speak out

To the Editor:
To the citizens of Heppner: I appreciate those of you who took the time to call me or to stop in at St. Patrick's senior center to visit with me. I felt it was a good beginning for exchanging ideas and concerns. For those of you who were unable to meet with me Saturday afternoon, or were unable to contact me by phone, I would still like to hear from you. If you would like to voice your concerns or get more information, please feel free to call me at home 676-5417. If you don't get an answer, keep trying.

For those of you who are interested, copies of the proposed budget, the merit pay program, minutes of past council meetings, and just about any other document you might wish to read should be available at city hall, as they are public documents.

I make no secret of the fact that I am opposed to merit increases in salaries. Furthermore, I am appalled that the council gave up the authority to approve those increases to the department heads, based on evaluations done by those same department heads. As the proposed budget now stands,

in the next year the city manager's salary can be increased as much as \$2,031, treasurer's by \$722, police chief by \$1,772, assistant police chief by \$929, public works director by \$1,811, assistant public works director by \$1,520, utility worker II by \$546, and utility worker I by \$348 based entirely on an evaluation form. Remember, this is in addition to the 3.5 percent cost of living raise they will be receiving. The only control the council has left is through the budget. Salary increases can be granted only if they are budgeted for. At this point in time, I am the only council member opposed to budgeting \$10,224 for merit raises. (That is almost one-half the salary of the police officer we had to eliminate last year.)

It is important for you to let your council members know how you feel. I have made an effort to let you know my concerns. Now it is time for you to be heard. Let the council know how you feel. It is never too late to speak out.

Thank you,
(s) Martha J. Doherty
Heppner City Council member

Support pharmacy freedom of access

To the Editor:
Heppner Chamber Board of Directors voted to urge support of SB 597, the "Freedom of Access" legislation that will allow participants and beneficiaries of a health insurance plan, policy or health maintenance organization (HMO) to select the pharmacy or pharmacist of their choice as long as they agree to participate in the plan according to the terms and requirements set forth by the insurer.

We support this bill as we don't wish to see rural communities in danger of losing community health services. Our consumers need to be protected and to have the freedom to deal with the pharmacy and pharmacist of their choice. Senior citizens, especially, would find it a hardship if they were forced to purchase prescriptions out of their own rural community.

Heppner Chamber's purpose is to create a positive environment where people and business thrive.

Sincerely,
(s) Rollie Marshall, President
Heppner, Chamber of Commerce

Wake up Morrow County

To the Editor:
Wake up Morrow County. Black Mountain Adult Foster care is no longer in business. The article that was in the paper (legal notice appearing in the Gazette-Times March 17, 24, 31 and April 7) about Jeanette Earlywine nka Townsend, put us out of business.

It was untrue. We have two lawyers working on the judgment. The lawyer I hired in Heppner didn't do her job. That is why the judgment came down on me (Jeanette Earlywine nka Townsend).

Because of the judgment we have lost all of our clients. People in Heppner are really bad about rumors, plus they add more to the rumor.

1. I care about Morrow County Senior Citizens.

2. The Adult Foster Care could have been good for Morrow County.

3. Wake up Morrow County. 73 percent of Morrow County is senior citizens.

4. Please start acting like our seniors are people too.

We appreciated our doctors and hospital and Heppner Clinic. They really stood behind us, all the way.

If everyone would take five minutes each day to listen to one senior, Morrow County would be a better place to live.

My husband and myself are moving to find new jobs. Could we please say good-bye to some people: Velma Wight, Nellie J. Jones, Agnes Sperry, Georgia Lynch and our friends in Heppner.

(s) Don and Jeannette Townsend

Vote yes on county levy

To the Editor:
Recently all registered voters received a ballot to vote on a one-year operating levy outside the tax base for Morrow County.

In March we voted on a higher operating levy and it was defeated by 29 votes with only 47 percent of the ballots returned.

The county court and budget committee have trimmed \$100,000 from the March levy. If this does not pass and further cuts are made, funding will have to be cut from services we all rely on.

We urge you to vote yes on the levy and keep our county moving forward.

Sincerely,
(s) Bob and Suzanne Jepsen

Bill will allow selection of pharmacist

To the Editor:
A sign of the times on the wall at an auto repair shop states "According to Oregon Insurance Law, an insurance company may not require that repairs be made by a particular person or repair shop." Senate Bill 718.

Do we really want to take better care of our car bodies and their repair shops than our own bodies and our own communities?

To maintain community health services, please call 1-800-327-7389 to contact Sen. Bob Shoemaker's office urging support of SB 597, the Freedom of Access legislation submitted by the Oregon State Pharmacists Assn. Contact this same 800 number to speak with your own legislator's office also. Or write them at: State Capital, Salem, Oregon 97310.

Sen. Shoemaker, chair of the 5-member Health Care and Bio-Ethics committee may, or may not, hold a hearing on this bill. The Senate Business, Housing and Consumer Affairs Committee did move the bill with a "do pass" recommendation because of strong consumer support.

Communities need further input from consumers to urge Sen. Shoemaker to hold a hearing and an additional "do pass" recommendation for a vote of the full Senate.

Without this additional and timely support we can expect a further decline in tax-paying rural communities and a gridlocked Western Oregon.

Sincerely,
(s) Margaret G. Murray

LCDC has negative impact on tax base

To the Editor:
There is an increasing interest by Oregonians in establishing a system under which land owners would receive compensation for loss of use of their property due to state regulatory actions.

State agencies such as Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, LCDC, and State Lands would have us believe that Oregonians in general are insensitive to the plight of individual land owners and support agency confiscatory programs. One test of this view provided interesting and encouraging results.

The firm of Moore Information Public Opinion Research tested the public's view by surveying 500 Oregon voters, picked at random, across the state. Each person was asked this question: "In your opinion, should private landowners be compensated when government denies them the use of their land in order to provide habitat for wildlife?"

A convincing 78 percent said, yes. Nearly eight of 10 voters believe the current system is unfair to land owners. Citizen greed for the possessions of others isn't as prevalent as state agency bureaucrats would have us believe.

The legislature has before it a bill, HB 2899, designed to provide compensation for property values lost due to state regulatory action. Let's work to make it become law. If we fail in the legislature, perhaps it is time for the people of Oregon to speak through a referendum. We need to insist that people are treated fairly.

Sincerely,
(s) George Holcomb
Richland

Weather Report
By City of Heppner

April 27 - May 3, 1993

	High	Low	Prec
Tues.	60	37	Tr
Weds.	59	46	.08
Thurs.	62	46	.11
Fri.	63	37	.0
Sat.	65	42	.04
Sun.	65	46	.16
Mon.	53	43	.27

Total precipitation for April was 2.74.

Corrections

The St. Jude Bike-A-Thon is set for Sunday, May 16 in Ione. A headline in last week's Gazette-Time incorrectly stated the wrong date. The course, which includes a 22-mile scenic ride from Ruggs to Ione is open to anyone who would like to participate. For more information and a pledge sheet contact Loa McElligott 422-7228.

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ODOT powerful land use dictator

To the Editor:
It is ludicrous that Oregon is making a great deal of effort to develop tourism and economic development while two state agencies are spending millions to discourage economic development and make the development of destination resorts practically impossible.

The criteria for destination resorts laid down by LCDC is so restrictive that no one has developed such a resort since these regulations have been in effect.

As for economic development, there is a new villain working to block any development that is even indirectly served by a state highway. Thanks to an administrative rule written by LCDC called the Transportation Planning Rule, the Oregon Department of Transportation, through its teams of planners and lawyers, is successfully delaying and killing development all over the state by actively opposing land use decisions and dictating land uses to cities and counties.

If you think ODOT is not a powerful land use dictator, just ask Douglas, Wallowa, and Clackamas counties or Waldport, Pendleton, Woodburn, or LaGrande. All have had developments killed by the heavy hand of ODOT. Heppner could be next.

(s) Kirk Braun
LaGrande

Property owners should be compensated

To the Editor:
Proponents of centralized land-use controls, LCDC, and its friends, claim the current system provides many benefits at small cost. The exact opposite is true, at least in Baker County.

Of our 16,000 real property accounts, 2195 rural tracts are 40 acres or smaller. LCDC restricts their use at home sites. Their combined unbuildable assessed value is \$6,813,000. As potential home sites their value would be \$51,198,000. Tax unavailable to Baker County on the difference is \$253,000 annually.

Without LCDC controls, homes would have been built on at least 10 percent of these tracts. The 219 new homes, with an average assessed value of \$70,000 would add \$22,044,000 to the value of Baker County and \$96,000 to its annual tax income potential.

The forfeited \$350,000 is recouped by taxing other property at a proportionately higher rate. Fewer owners thus fund the county.

Construction of 219 homes represents labor and material that would boost county and state income. Further, there would be 219 new families living in Baker County. Many of whom would be retired, each bringing into the county an additional \$25,000 or so annual income to be spent with local merchants.

Other rural counties in Oregon must suffer similar LCDC imposed loss to their tax base, and experience the same lack of benefits.

The above facts show the impact of just a small fraction of our land control system. From this it seems self evident that the lack of local funding for schools is largely contrived. It is not the lack of county resources, but the negative impact LCDC controls have on our tax base that is turning us into wards of the state.

Sincerely,
(s) Allen Phillips
Baker County Assessor

Justice Court Report

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

Ronald Albion Schwarz, 31, Heppner-Failure to Use Seat Belt, \$25 fine;

Howard Matthew Shane, 26, Lexington-Exceeding the Maximum Speed Limit, 65 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$25 fine;

Dustin Joe Padberg, 32, Ione-Exceeding the Maximum Speed Limit, 68 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$61 fine;

Michael Fred Vogeles, 36, Heppner-Failure to Wear Seat Belt, \$25 fine;

Stephen Louis Hill, 41, Lexington-Exceeding the Maximum Speed Limit, 65 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$25 fine;

Joe Lynn Humphries, 50, Crosby, TX-Violation of the Basic Rule, 55 mph in a 35 mph zone, \$55 fine;

Kenneth John Ohls, 57, Boise, ID-Exceeding the Maximum Speed Limit, 69 mph a 55 mph zone, \$55 fines;

Keith Earl Browning, 50, Goldendale, WA.-Operating On Flat Tire, \$55 fine; No Oregon Operator's License, \$24 fine;

Tracy Shawn Wilson, 20, Heppner-No Angling License, \$25 fine;

Carla Annette Morter, 27, Heppner-Exceeding Maximum Speed, 74 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$55 fine.

Crushed Rock For Sale



¾ minus
1½" minus
3" base rock

Rip Rap
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Can be picked up at pit or we will deliver
Pit 2 miles below Lex. on Lex/Ione Hwy.

Contact Roger Britt 676-5096

Court Street Market

111 N. Court Heppner 676-9643

GROCERIES - MEATS - PRODUCE

La Victoria 16.5 oz.	reg. 2.39	2 lb. cello bag	
Salsa	\$1.19 ea.	Carrots	59¢ ea.
Western Family chicken, celery or mushroom 10.5 oz.	reg. 75¢	Fresh Broccoli	49¢ lb.
Soup	\$1.00	10 lb. bag	
Western Family 5 lb. bag	reg. 2.09 ea.	Potatoes	\$1.19 ea.
Sugar	\$1.00 ea.	Golden Delicious	
Western Family 16 oz.	reg. 85¢ ea.	Apples	59¢ lb.
Refried Beans	2 for 99¢	New York Steak	\$4.69 lb.
Western Family 4-4.25 oz.	reg. 1.59 ea.	Rib Eye Steak	\$4.69 lb.
Pudding Cups	\$1.00 pkg.	Top Sirloin Steak	\$3.19 lb.
Western Family 6 oz. lite 8 oz. reg.		Beef Bottom	
Yogurt	3 for 99¢	Round Roast	\$2.00 lb.
Green Cabbage	29¢ lb.	Boneless	
Price Good		Pork Loin Roast	\$2.79 lb.
May 5th through 11th			

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