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City of Heppner and the
County of Morrow

Heppner
GAZETTE-TIMES

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Letter to the Editor

Time to return high school to Irrigon

To the Editor
I am writing to respond to the "View From the West" column in the Sept. 27 issue of the Hermiston Herald. Parts of the article I agree with, a plan was devised that would have restored a high school to Irrigon at no additional cost to the district, Glenn is right about that; however, he states it would be detrimental to education, and with this I heartily disagree. I was at public meetings when Mr. Starr was asked outright, "Will we lose electives if we split the high school?" He answered without hesitation, "We may lose some anyway, because of measure 5." He went on to assure the people that any electives lost would not be in science or math fields.

Glenn states that Irrigon is trying to have their high school restored at a time when other schools are consolidating in order to have better schools. Contrary to this statement, when the Oregon State Department of Education was called and asked if consolidation was the trend, they referred us to Sisters, Oregon, a town that bused their students to Redmond for 25 years and then succeeded in getting their high school back. The following quote is from the Dec. 13, 1993 edition of the East Oregonian: "Having our students back has been great," said Connie Holly, the high school secretary. "It's given more time for students to spend with their families." The community has rallied around its high school, attending games and other school events, Holly said. The

Vote for French

To the Editor
We would like to express our support for Ray French in his bid for re-election as Morrow County Commissioner. French possesses the experience, background, skills and abilities to continue to meet

smaller school also gives more students and opportunity for individual attention and greater opportunities to participate in sports, she added.

I agree with Connie Holly, the thing I liked most about being in a small school was the whole class participated in every sport and school activity. We were more closely supervised which resulted in better behavior.

I was in the class of 1959, the last class to graduate from Irrigon high school. I can tell you (as anyone can who lived here) that there is no comparison to the town spirit that existed then and now. Without a high school, there is nothing that draws all aspects of a town together. There was never a town more proud of its high school than Irrigon. We had a marching band that traveled and performed constantly along with good ball teams. Our town has not been the same since we lost all of this and we believe now is the time to return a high school to Irrigon. Anyone who has seen the student configuration staffing analysis prepared by Starr can see that an extremely well-rounded education would be available to students of both Boardman and Irrigon. When we get our high school back, the same thing will happen here as in Sisters, our town will come alive.

Mr. Glenn, I would like for you to state who campaigned against the bond, because I know of no such action.

(s) Samie J. Griffin
P.O. Box 323
Irrigon, OR

the many challenges of running county government.

We believe he will continue to do a good job for us.

We urge you to re-elect Ray French for county commissioner.
(s) Bob and Suznne Jepsen

Measure 5 damaging

To the Editor

You may remember me when I was Oregon's Attorney General. Even though I'm not the attorney general anymore, I still care just as deeply as I always have about Oregon and its future. Right now, I'm worried.

What concerns me is the new Measure 5 we'll be voting on in Nov. Though its content isn't anything like the old Measure 5, the new measure has the same capacity to sneak up on us in unintended and very damaging ways.

It would require an election to obtain voter approval for almost every single fee increase by cities, counties and the state, no matter how small, no matter how trivial.

Now, I'm not talking about major tax increases either. As a practical matter under Oregon law, we already have an opportunity to vote on tax increases.

I'm talking about how expensive it will be to vote on a nickel increase in the fee for copying papers in Oregon's district courts, or a dime increase in a county's marriage license fee, a hike in a city's boiler inspection fee or an increase in the cost of a flu shot at a public health hospital. Measure 5 would force an expensive public vote on these and thousands of other little fee increases that we don't have to vote on now.

This would increase the

amount of money spent on political campaigns by millions of dollars every year. I think we spend enough time and money on campaigns already.

Requiring a vote on thousands of little fee increases also means urban voters will be forced to vote on rural issues, such as livestock disease control programs. Rural voters will be passing judgment on urban issues such as pollution control. With Measure 5, the wrong people will be voting on the wrong issues. That's not good for Oregon.

Measure 5 would also require a statewide vote on fees that people want to pay voluntarily. Oregon strawberry growers, for example, willingly pay fees to help market their crops. If Measure 5 passes and voters decide these growers should not pay the fee, their marketing efforts would stop, sales would plummet, and farm families would suffer. Multiply this times all the commodities in Oregon agriculture, and you begin to see the very dangerous threat Measure 5 poses to Oregon's farmers and the state's economy.

Please join me in voting no on Measure 5. It goes too far. It costs too much. It makes no sense. Thanks for taking the time to read this letter

Sincerely,
Dave Frohnmayer
P.O. Box 12945
Salem, OR

Get real on Measure 20

To the Editor:

If you love the existing and promised new taxes at all government levels, stop reading now.

Measure 20 is a well thought-out approach for raising funds needed for government functions such as police, fire and schools, to mention just a few.

Now for the rest of us, briefly: essentially no politician, either Democrat or Republican, is for this Measure. That fact in itself says it all; I believe that none of them wants to lose his/her control to tax us. You know then that Measure 20 must be good for us.

The Measure will replace the present system of 27 state taxes and eight plus local taxes, with only one exception: the Workers Compensation Insurance Taxes. That means that state income taxes, property taxes and all the rest go away. I urge you not to be confused by tax and spenders who are using their own concocted scare language on how this Measure will impact you. No matter what the Tax and Spenders say, the only language that matters to you, is the Equal Tax Initiative which was signed by over 105,000 voters. I shall be happy to provide you with a copy plus a summary of the Oregon taxes mentioned above.

As current taxes are removed from the cost of producing Oregon's goods and services, this will make the prices of Oregon's products for sale very advantageous for both in and out of state trade. This will place Oregon in a most favored position to attract/keep business with increased opportunities for all of us.

Endorsing French

To the Editor:

We are endorsing Ray French for re-election as Morrow Co. Commissioner. French is very knowledgeable and hard working for the benefit of all Morrow Co. We are fortunate to have a man with his outstanding record of public service willing to give of his time and energies to make our county a better place to live.

A vote for Ray French for Morrow Co. Commissioner is a vote for dedicated experience.

Sincerely,
(s) Cam and Jim Wishart

Correction

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office German Shepherd Police dog, Dax, was purchased through drug seizure monies, not tax monies.

Memories of Heppner

To the Editor

Your most informative 10-5-94 article on the Reaney Reunion was read with much interest by the writer. I recall most vividly my associations with the Baldwin family over 60 years ago when the Mitchells were Heppner residents.

Daughter Olivia was a classmate of mine in grade school. Shelly, the patriarch of the family, operated a furniture store on Main St. Son Andy ran a grocery delivery service and split the town deliveries 50-50 with a Mr. Beamer. I assisted Andy in these deliveries from the six stores in town. Now there are only two. Sadly we call this progress. Don't ask the Heppner Merchants. Hello shopping malls in Hermiston, Pendleton and the Tri-Cities.

When Andy took a day or two off, Frank Egan, son of a union pacific engineer, filled in admirably. In those days, the town housewives phoned in their orders and we would complete the cycle. Orders were different then. Forty-nine and 98 pound sacks of flour,

and case goods (canned milk, etc.) made up many an order. Check with that well known retired grocer, Jim Thomson, he will confirm. Andy married Eva Hiatt and as I recall, their first home was on Quaid St. across from Bert Sigsbee and Mrs. Whetstone. Eva played a "mean piano" for sound accompaniment to the silent movies at the Star Theater.

Andy also ventured into the soft drink business. He built a bottling plant on a vacant lot next to the Hinton Creek Bridge on North Elder. I peddled his wares at the rodeo grounds during the Sunday Wheatland League Baseball. Tasted rather good, too. I remember Andy telling me he was just an infant when the disastrous June, 1903 flood hit Heppner.

Memories, memories, folks. But they just don't go away and I hope they never will.

(s) Bill Mitchell
61 Forest Grove Dr
Daly City, CA 94015



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