

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

Heppner
GAZETTE-TIMES

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Letters to the Editor

Editor's note: Letters to the Editor must be signed. The Gazette-Times will not publish unsigned letters. Please include your address and phone number on all letters for use by the G-T office. The G-T reserves the right to edit.

Better off with Cooley?

To the Editor:

Recently there was a long article in the Oregonian regarding the conflict of interest that exists between Congressman Bob Smith and his son's (Bob's) lobbying organization and Bob Smith as a Congressman.

Last Saturday the Oregonian front page left column wrote about the failure of Bob's Forest Recovery and Protection Act of 1998 in Congress.

It seems possible that the press is on another Cooley type persecution. Cooley was the author of the Timber Salvage

Rider which infuriated the tree hugging left, Albert Gore and Bill Clinton. Gore and Clinton retaliated against Cooley by making it impossible for Cooley to get his military records and set him up for prosecution.

It becomes easy to see that we would be better off with Cooley now because it seems Cooley was and is more able to pass legislation important to east Oregonians. Smith's candidate, Walden, can't possibly be even as able as Smith.

(s) Bernie Wertgen
Hood River
candidate for Oregon House
District 56

Re-elect Earl Woods, DA

To the Editor:

I want to take this opportunity to endorse Earl R. Woods, Jr. for the position of District Attorney for Morrow County, Oregon. I have known Earl for 24 years as a prosecutor in both Coos and Morrow counties and I know him to be a man of both integrity and character.

When serving as a police officer in Eastside, Oregon, I became involved in a series of high-profile serious crimes which Earl

successfully prosecuted as the DA for Coos County. Since that time and now, I have witnessed Earl successfully prosecute murders, rapes, robbery and virtually every crime imaginable. I know him to be aggressive, honest and fair, and a man who likes people. I think we are fortunate to have him as our District Attorney, and as sheriff of Morrow County, I urge you to re-elect him.

(s) Roy L. Drago,
Sheriff of Morrow County
Boardman

Announces resignation

(Editor's note: the following letter was sent to the Heppner mayor and city council members.)

To the Editor:

Mayor Jepsen, City Councilors and Heppner Citizens:

Friday, May 1, 1998, will be my last workday as your city manager. I have accepted the position of city manager for the city of North Bend on the Oregon Coast and will assume that position on May 11.

During my tenure, (I) was blessed to work with many fine people and, together, we accomplished much. I am proud to have been a part of projects that saw the improvement of the city sewer plant and system, creation of the Memorial Park and the veteran's memorial, construction of the city park restroom and playground, preservation and regaining of vital services in the aftermath of Measures 5 and 50, development of Lakeview Heights subdivision, construction of the new public works equipment building, implementation of a housing rehabilitation program, creation of the library district which brought improved service to the community, construction of the Willow Creek Water Park, replacement of four bridges, paving and reconstruction of over 40 percent of the city's streets, installation of the water telemetry system, construction of the new fire hall addition and the acquisition of the 1994 International fire truck and the remaking of our downtown through the ambitious Main and May Street Project and the Downtown Building Renovation Program.

None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the strong and constant support of the city council, city staff and, most importantly, the many fine citizens of Heppner.

This has been a very special time in my life and I will always cherish the many friends and memories made over these past years. May the Lord bless each

of you in a very special way and may His blessing continue to be poured out on this wonderful community.

With Great Affection,
(s) Gary B. Marks
City Manager, Heppner

Commission plans meeting

The Morrow County Commission on Children and Families will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, April 14, at the Morrow County Family Service Center, 120 South Main, Heppner, at 7 p.m.

The main item of business will be the approval of the community development proposals and the commission funding policy.

This is a public meeting and everyone is invited to attend.

Endorses Van Arsdale

To the Editor:

The coming county election promises to be the most interesting in years. If none of the candidates had withdrawn, we would have had the choice of nine candidates for county judge alone. One wonders if the candidates studied the work of previous judges and decided that anyone could do the job. Probably though, the salary, benefits and perks were the deciding factors for some of the candidates.

Anyone who wins the job is engaging in a tough learning situation unless they have had some prior experience in governmental budgeting and finance and have a lot of common sense. It also helps to know a debit from a credit and be able to read and understand financial reports. I personally prefer someone for the job who has successfully operated his own business. Surprisingly, some of the most penurious people are not very careful when they can spend public money. In fact, I remember one man that served together with me for several terms on the school board that though not personally conservative was a most careful spender and analyzed every expenditure. A Heppner rancher who served who served several years on the county budget committee was also a jealous guardian of public money.

I am writing this to endorse Guy Van Arsdale for county judge. He was a successful businessman and after he retired was persuaded to become the public works director. While he has held this job, he has demonstrated a sound grasp of public finance and budgeting and is probably the most qualified of all the candidates in the things that I have mentioned. He is greatly concerned about at-risk juveniles and I expect that he will pursue some innovative plans if he wins the office. I believe that he has the ability and courage to represent Morrow County in the potential struggles with the federal government over the Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project. Local government does have some voice in federal policy, but the agencies prefer to ignore their rights.

Van has another qualification that is most important for the job. He loves the whole county and has no regional preferences. When he was in business building roads, he had some equipment the county didn't have and many times he loaned us his lowboy or roller or would smooth out one of our mountain roads without charge. In fact, in the 80s, he did some small jobs for the county during his idle time at a cost well below any contractor's bids. The six jobs that I recall were the cut and fill on the Dave Baker Road; straightening the Pettys Canyon Road; the Buttercreek Road at Gordon O'Brien's and upper and lower Sanford Canyon; and filling the slide on the Weyland Grade, all of which were done for a total of less than \$30,000. The local SCS engineer measured the yardage of the first of these jobs

and advised us to keep Van working as he was moving dirt for less than we could do it ourselves. I've always thought that because he was proud of our county and good roads he wanted to help and encourage us.

This letter is not meant to disparage the character or abilities of any of the other candidates, many of whom are my friends. I do urge you to vote for Van Arsdale because I feel that he has the character and ability to bring the county through these perilous times.

(s) Don McElligott
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Let your feelings be known

To the Editor:

A reminder to area citizens who have not already given testimony or written letters: Any residents who feel strongly about the Oregon Youth Authority Camp's being sited at Heppner still have an opportunity to be heard by the siting committee. As the newspaper report mentioned, the committee will receive testimonial letters through April 15.

A camp will be located in Eastern Oregon, Representative Lundquist supports siting it in Heppner and supportive public testimony at the meeting outnumbered opposing testimony. However, conversations since that meeting suggest that not all people who have strong opinions about the situation have made their opinions known to the authorities. Their letters, whether in support or in opposition, are equally important as the testimony already given. The committee will only gain a clear view of Heppner's position on the proposal if interested people make certain they have been heard.

So, I encourage every interested person to tell your neighbor what you think, of course, but if you haven't already, write what you think to the people who are going to make the decision in May. Send your reasons to the Oregon Youth Camp Siting Committee, Brad Mulvihill, 62910 O.B. Riley Road, Bend, OR 97701.

(s) Doris Brosnan
Heppner

Elections can be a boor
At times may be a chore
For a better administration
Let's have celebrations
And let Guy Van Arsdale
in the door.

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Guy Van Arsdale Morrow Co. Judge

April 11 - Saturday
EASTER EGG HUNT! Starting at 10 a.m.: Preschool at the City Park; first and second grades at the Middle School Playground; third and fourth grades at Hager Park. The Easter Bunny will be making his annual visit at the City Park at 10 a.m.

Bingo every Wednesday night at 7:30 p.m.
Regular dining on Fridays and Saturdays

HEPPNER ELKS 358
676-9181 "Where Friends Meet" 142 North Main

FARM EQUIPMENT ON THE WEB
www.mcgg.net

ELECT ROD OSGOOD for JUSTICE OF THE PEACE



- ❖ Everyone is innocent until proven guilty.
- ❖ The guilty should be sentenced in a way that will persuade them to change their behavior.
- ❖ That restitution should be paid to as many victims as possible.
- ❖ My Primary Job is not to raise money for the county, but to help protect and make life more pleasant for the people who live here.

FOR COMMON SENSE JUSTICE VOTE ROD OSGOOD

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Rod Osgood Justice of the Peace

We're Spring Cleaning!

If you're looking for a good used car, now is the time to stop by Wright Chevrolet!

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4 door, loaded, new tires, clean - \$8,995.00
- '92 Oldsmobile 98 Regency Elite**
4 door, loaded, leather interior, clean \$8,900.00
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- '95 Oldsmobile Aurora**
4 door, great car, leather and loaded only \$18,800.00
- '93 Chevrolet Astro Van**
all wheel drive \$9,850.00
- '93 Chevrolet Astro Van**
all wheel drive \$9,850.00

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