

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

Published weekly and entered as periodical matter at the Post Office at Heppner, Oregon under the Act of March 3, 1879. Periodical postage paid at Heppner, Oregon. Office at 147 W. Willow Street. Telephone (541) 676-9228. Fax (541) 676-9211. E-mail: gt@heppner.net or gt@rapidsolve.net. Web site: www.heppner.net. Postmaster send address changes to the Heppner Gazette-Times, P.O. Box 337, Heppner, Oregon 97836. Subscriptions: \$24 in Morrow County; \$18 senior rate (in Morrow County only; 62 years or older); \$30 elsewhere.

David Sykes ..... Publisher  
Katie Wall ..... Editor

News deadline is Monday at 5 p.m.

For Advertising: advertising deadline is Monday at 5 p.m. Cost for a display ad is \$4.75 per column inch. Cost for classified ad is 50¢ per word. Cost for Card of Thanks is \$7 up to 100 words. Cost for a classified display ad is \$5.35 per column inch.  
For Public/Legal Notices: public/legal notices deadline is Monday at 5 p.m. Dates for publication must be specified. Affidavits must be required at the time of submission. Affidavits require three weeks to process after last date of publication (a sooner return date must be specified if required).

On the HEPPNER WEBSITE: www.heppner.net

- Start or Change a Subscription
- Place a Classified Ad • Submit a News Story
- View Real Estate for Sale • City Council & Planning Minutes
- Local Businesses • County Park • Willow Creek Park Reservations
- Free Digital Postcards • Senior Housing • and more!

**Thoughts on  
Measure 25-14**

To the Editor,

I would like to encourage voters to vote "Yes" on the ballot measure for the Morrow County Unified Recreation District. The measure seeks to eliminate the zones to which the board members are elected and have them serve at large. The recent census data will require the board to change the boundaries of the current five zones. This is an expensive process and by law must be implemented after each census. I believe the resources of the District can be better spent on programs rather than on realigning the zones every 10 years.

Balancing the zones by population will require that the boundaries for the lone and Heppner zones be extended into the Irrigon and Boardman areas. This shift effectively eliminates representation by geographic area and eliminates the original purpose for having zones. Board members who serve the district at large are required to provide representation to the entire district. Representation, with the unified purpose of providing the best decisions for all the constituents of the district is an asset to each of us. I hope you will join me in voting "Yes" on this measure.

(s) Cyde Marie Estes  
Heppner

**Former tugboat  
captain offers  
support for Smith**

To the Editor:

It is with great pride that I write this letter of support for Oregon State Representative Greg Smith. I have known Greg for many years, and he has proven to my family and I that he is dedicated to constituents and willing to go that "extra mile" to get things done.

During the 2001 Legislative Session, I visited Greg several times at the Capitol. His office was always open to my ideas, thoughts and comments.

As a former tugboat captain, Greg and I strongly agree on issues surrounding our river system. He was there for us when the threat of removing the dams hovered. He was not afraid to stand up with Senator Gordon Smith and Congressman Greg Walden to deliver the message that our dams were staying right where they were.

Greg has already proven his loyalty to senior citizens. The Oregon Health Care Association and the Oregon State Council of Senior Citizens have both named him a "Senior Champion". I know that he will continue to be our legislative guardian in Salem.

House District 57 has a great friend in Oregon State Representative Greg Smith. By sending Greg back, we'll be letting Salem know what Eastern Oregon stands for, and more importantly, what we won't stand for.

(s) Dan Creamer  
Irrigon

**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. The G-T is not responsible for accuracy of statements made in letters. (Any letters expressing thanks will be placed in the classifieds under "Card of Thanks" at a cost of \$7.)

**Local woman  
voices  
disappointment in  
superintendent**

To the Editor:

Recently it has come to my attention that the current superintendent, Jack Crippen, has made what I would consider inconsiderate, ignorant decisions regarding the placement of a small child. This child, Jenna Taylor turned five on Sept. 2 of this year, one day past the normal acceptance date required by the state of Oregon. The family requested that the board take into consideration the fact that Jenna has had two years of preschool, a statement from Jenna's doctor, which I might add Mr. Crippen would not even examine and also, Jenna was administered the normal test given at the end of the year to kindergarten children showing their ability to function at the first grade level. Jenna aced this test. The test and her scoring on this test were also presented to Mr. Crippen, which again he would not consider or even examine.

At this point in time I guess I am wondering what Mr. Crippen's credentials are with regard to the education of children. The Taylors are not trying to put Jenna into first grade... they are only asking that she be given the opportunity to explore and learn at the kindergarten level. The Taylors have also stated that, if at the end of the kindergarten year, Jenna did not seem ready for first grade they would have no problem with the repeating of kindergarten. However, given her test scores this would be highly unlikely.

The Taylors have explored the possibility of sending her to Arlington. The superintendent in Arlington would welcome Jenna to their kindergarten but here again Mr. Crippen has seen fit to tell the Taylors that Morrow County would not release Jenna to Gilliam County. In lieu of that fact, the Taylors would have to pay approximately \$5000 annually for Jenna to attend Arlington. Mr. Crippen also stated that if Jenna did attend Arlington she would not be allowed to enter first grade

in a Morrow County school. What kind of a statement is that? It definitely sounds like a spoiled child that threatens if not given his own way.

I cannot understand how an educator (and I use that term loosely when speaking of Mr. Crippen) could want to deny a little five year old of learning and exploring her educational world. No child should be refused the chance to learn. We are not talking about a child who is a month or more past the state guidelines... only one day. Let me state that I do not know Mr. Crippen and evidently whoever hired him hopefully must not have known him either... but his decisions and lack of understanding are unacceptable behavior especially since he holds such a position of power in the school system. Our children and their chance for an education should definitely be uppermost in Mr. Crippen's and the Morrow County school system. Has this now become a vendetta? There are other children who attend lone schools that reside in an adjoining county and that doesn't seem to be a problem. Evidentially the educators in the other county feel it is important for the children to attend where they feel most comfortable. Of course, the monies allotted these children from the other counties go into the lone school system. Could this be the issue, money, and not really the consideration of the child? If so, I would hope someone would make changes and soon before any other children suffer because of Mr. Crippen's reluctance to examine all the facts.

Gilliam County seems to have the interest of the children on their agenda... I guess I haven't yet figured out what agenda Mr. Crippen is following... or does he even know.

(s) Judy Harris  
lone

**EOU student a  
believer in Smith's  
commitment to  
education**

To the Editor:

In the midst of our state's budget crisis, I don't think there as many people who would deny that funding education should be a priority. We need a Representative who will support education at all levels. As a student at Eastern Oregon University, I have witnessed firsthand Representative Greg Smith's commitment to education. He has worked closely with our school to gain funding for small school universities. Smith also played a large part in helping EOU to find the funds for our new science center.

Representative Greg Smith is aware of our needs and he knows how to get things done. So if education is a priority to you, then I urge you to re-elect Representative Greg Smith for Oregon State Representative, District 57.

(s) Sarah Herrmann  
LaGrande

**Some believe  
special interest  
groups allow our  
voices to be heard**

To the Editor:

As I read through the endorsements given by the East Oregonian on Sunday, I became quite upset by the obvious attack on "special interest" groups.

I am a citizen of Oregon. I am a taxpayer. I am a voter. I

am also a member of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association. My friends, family and neighbors are members of the Oregon Education Association, Oregon Farm Bureau, National Federation of Independent Businesses (N.F.I.B.), Oregon Wheat League and many political action committees that ensure our voice is being heard in Salem.

I do not consider myself a member of groups that reduce our public officials to be "paralyzed with fear that campaign dollars will be withheld if they vote a certain way." I am offended at Ms. Scheeler's and the East Oregonian's comments that we conduct ourselves in such a manner. Part of what makes America so beautiful is the right to voice our opinions and belong to organizations that help us protect our freedoms.

I, along with many other folks, are the "special interest" groups that you so negatively refer to. I suggest the East Oregonian (and Ms. Scheeler) find a different way to attack her opponent. Those repeated comments are not welcome, nor are they appreciated.

In the meantime, I will be casting my vote for Representative Greg Smith. He has proven a record of working side by side with all citizens, regardless of which group they associate with.

(s) Callie Jo Carr  
LaGrande

**Grant Co. resident  
proud to claim  
Smith as  
representative**

To the Editor:

As a resident of Grant County I was proud to claim Greg Smith as my District Representative. Greg was an excellent Representative. He took the time to talk to the people in his District, and most importantly, he listened to us. Greg understands Eastern Oregon, and he has what it takes to make things happen, as he proved during the last Legislative Session.

It would be a shame if Eastern Oregon were to lose such a strong advocate. I encourage everyone to vote for Representative Greg Smith for District 57. We need someone in Salem who is not afraid to fight on our behalf.

(s) Virginia Carr  
Dayville

**Thoughts on tax  
increases and  
representatives**

To the Editor:

It seems like every two years, when the legislature conveys, you had better grab your wallet. Whether it's trying to raise the income tax, changing the way property is valued, or the "little" fee increases we face, our hard-earned money always seems to disappear.

This November, I will be saying no to increased taxes through a vote for Representative Greg Smith. Greg understands that a prosperous economy doesn't occur through government control and more taxes, but by allowing our free enterprise system to work. Greg has convinced me that he will continue to work hard to reduce the tax burdens on working citizens and small business owners, so that they can once again be profitable. If you feel as I do, the choice is simple - vote to re-elect Greg Smith for Oregon State Representative, House District 57.

(s) Ron Herbison  
LaGrande

**Support for  
Scheeler**

To the Editor:

Elizabeth Scheeler has a

fresh voice and is well prepared to tackle the bureaucratic entanglement in Salem. She has done her homework. Her voice has the sound of a quietly determined mother bear that is ready to defend her cubs.

Elizabeth, as a parent and member of the Pendleton School Board, has been involved in schools for several years and is especially concerned about funding quality education for the children of Oregon.

Elizabeth is mindful that Ballot Measure 5 made drastic changes in school funding and that the choice of the legislature this year was to use one-time pots of money and accounting maneuvers for K-12 education. She is fed up with politicians running on the education platform only to get to Salem and forget their campaign promises. And, she believes that any new taxes for schools must be accompanied by a reduction in income tax rates.

Households need to budget their money for their future needs and emergencies. Why not government? The Oregon School Employees Association, the Oregon School Board Association and the Confederation of Oregon Administrators can find no evidence that Elizabeth's opponent, Greg Smith, ever voted for stable, long-term funding for schools.

Elizabeth cares deeply for the welfare and quality of life for all Oregon children and families. Support Elizabeth Scheeler and the quality of life and education you want for yourself and your family. Let's send Elizabeth Scheeler to Salem and let her work for our children and us. Vote for Elizabeth Scheeler. I am.

(s) Betty Alexander  
Milton-Freewater

**Support for Smith**

To the Editor:

I recently looked at the web site for the Oregon Education Association to check on how legislators performed during the 2001 Legislative Session. I also checked to see which candidate they recommended for House District 57.

I was pleasantly surprised to find that the Oregon Education Association has endorsed Representative Greg Smith for the upcoming election. I have ready many articles in which Smith's opponent has attacked him for not supporting education. Obviously, the Oregon Education Association thinks differently.

Of the top eight legislative successes listed by the OEA, Representative Greg Smith was there for our teachers on all eight. Keep in mind that these are the top eight pieces of legislation that members of the OEA found to be their top victories during the 2001 session.

I hope that you will join me, as well as many other informed voters, in supporting Representative Greg Smith. He has a proven record of supporting main street business, loggers, farmers, ranchers, veterans, senior citizens and last, but certainly not least, our schools.

(s) Terri Strang  
Irrigon

**Pendleton man  
offers support for  
Scheeler**

To the Editor:

I am in complete support of the candidacy of Elizabeth Scheeler for the Legislative seat for District 57. While Elizabeth Scheeler does not aspire to become a career politician, she is committed to serving her legislative district and the state at a time when we face a crisis in funding schools and other vital

continued next page



There's a better way to keep life exciting.

Join Klamath First's Classic 50 Club. If you're over fifty and have a Klamath First checking account, you can enjoy gifts, social gatherings and discounted group travel. No matter how adventurous you are, we'll keep you from doing the one thing you'll always regret: Nothing.

CLASSIC 50 CLUB  
Klamath First

