

2004 Candidates' Forum

Election day is Nov. 2 and the Heppner Gazette-Times has opened a forum for Heppner candidates. Each candidate in the mayoral and city council races were given a questionnaire as a way to inform readers of their backgrounds, positions and hopes for Heppner.

A forum for county positions will be included in next week's paper.

All the candidates were asked the same questions including: 1) Why would a voter select you over your opponent? 2) If elected, what is the biggest challenge facing you? 3) What do you feel are the important issues facing Heppner at this time? and 4) What do you see as the future of Heppner for the next five years?

After many years of being an uncontested race, the Heppner mayoral position has two candidates running, Tim VanCleave and Keith Lewis.

VanCleave, 44, and his wife Myrna have been residents of Morrow County since 1987.



Tim VanCleave

They have six children ages 20, 17, 15, 12, 9 and 6. He is an ordained minister with the Assemblies of God and is the pastor of Heppner's Christian Life Center.

VanCleave graduated from Bend High School and continued his education at Central Oregon Community College, Northwest College of the Assemblies of God and graduated from the College of Ministerial Education in Lebanon.

He is a member of the Heppner Chamber of Commerce; treasurer of the South Morrow County Ministerial Association, member of the Morrow County Sheriff's Department Chaplaincy program, member of the Willow Creek Symphony and Singers and a trained Hospice volunteer.

VanCleave is currently the president of the Heppner City Council and has been a member of the council for 10 years. He is also chairman of the Police Commission. He has many years of experience working with people with differing views and has completed the Rural Development Initiative training course, which trains participants in community leadership.

Question 1) "I've had 10 years of experience as a city council member and I'm familiar with the current issues facing our community. I've spent the past 17 years volunteering my time to

make Heppner a better place to live."

Question 2) "As mayor, the economic development of our community would be my biggest challenge. I would work closely with the city council to support the Heppner Economic Development Group as they seek to draw industry to Heppner."

Question 3) "An immediate issue facing our community is the implementation of the new water system. In addition, issues facing us include sewer and street maintenance, completion of adjustments to the floodplain and floodway; resolving the dog and feral cat problem; and deciding what to do with the old swimming pool. Although not directly related to city government, keeping our hospital open is a critical issue."

Question 4) "I'm optimistic about Heppner's future. Speaking from personal experience, I see our town as a wonderful place for young families to raise their children. I also see it as a great place for seniors to retire. As we are successful in drawing in industry, I envision Heppner as a vibrant, thriving community."

Lewis, 72, and his wife Sharon are co-owners of Heritage Land Company. He came to Morrow County in 1983. He has one daughter, two stepdaughters and one stepson.

Lewis attended Blue Mountain Community College and Treasure Valley Community College and has several law enforcement related certifications. He served for four years in the U.S. Navy during the Korean Conflict.

He is a member of the B P O E (Elks). He has been a member of the Morrow County Planning Commission; Morrow County School Board; and the Oregon Lottery Commission-Security and Budget Committee.

Lewis has also gained state management experience through the Oregon State Police.

Question 1) "To refresh city government with new ideas and goals. As a local business owner I seek to reduce the city debt in order to cut city expenditures."

Question 2) "Helping to keep the cost of living in Heppner affordable and attractive to new families and businesses."

Question 3) "Heppner needs to address its infrastructure deficiencies, including an aging water system. It's important to try to pay down or structure our debt in order to lower our property taxes. Affordable housing is crucial to a healthy town. The city needs to more actively pursue efforts to coordinate groups to provide quality of life activities in Heppner, including youth activities."

Question 4) "A steady population growth of families moving into the area."

City Council Position #1 is uncontested this year with Cynthia Doherty running as the candidate.

Doherty, 47, graduated from Ione High School. She and her husband Mike have three children, ages 29, 25 and 15.

Doherty has been with the U.S. Forest Service for the past three years and has also worked for the Morrow County Sheriff's Office, Morrow County Tax Office and the City of Ione.

She is currently the Booster Club vice-president and has been Little League secretary. She has also been active on site council for the grade school and coached seventh grade volleyball for four years.

Doherty was appointed to the city council two years ago and has decided to now run for the position.

"I think being on City Council takes a long time to comprehend and understand what goes on in the city and after two years I think it is sinking in."

Question 2) "Making sure things are done according to what the citizens of Heppner want and what is right for the city of Heppner."



Cynthia Doherty

Question 3) "Getting the water system going. People have seen increase in their water bills and want to see some progress. Once we get the bids and award a contract, then the work will start and that will help. We want to make sure everyone has good drinking water."

Question 4) "I would like to see Heppner keeping up with the times and making sure it is still a great place to work, live and play for everyone."

City Council Position #2 has two candidates running for the position, Glenn Baker and Warren Givens. However, at time of publication, Givens had not submitted a questionnaire

Baker, 55, moved to Heppner with his wife Terry at the end of October 2003. He is a native Oregonian and graduated from Parkrose

High School in Portland. He also attended University of Oregon in Eugene for three years.

He worked for the U.S. Department of the Interior/National Park Service for 28 years. He served as a grant administrator for 11 years, national park ranger for six years, public affairs officer for three years and as NPS business manager for eight years in Seattle, Mt. Rainier and San Francisco.



Glenn Baker

He has also served as a liaison with the City of Vancouver, WA while serving as a park ranger at Fort Vancouver National Historic Site.

Baker is a member of the First Christian Church of Heppner.

Baker has 11 years grant management experience involving state and local governments throughout the Pacific Northwest. He also has 10 years public affairs experience involving federal, state and local government officials, law enforcement, educators, local civic groups, chambers of commerce, etc.

Question 1) "First, because of my many years of job experience on the periphery of politics, with a lot of exposure to the mechanics and human dynamics of government operations at the federal, state and local levels. Second, because of 11 years of grant administration experience that could benefit Heppner financially. And third, because of my natural reluctance to go along with spending public funds absent a compelling need."

Question 2) "Initially, I need to get up to speed on local operations such as our law enforcement service contract with Morrow County, water/sewer rate structure, public works staffing, budget, etc. Over the longer haul, I think the single biggest challenge is going to be seeking out that elusive balance that brings enough jobs and commerce into Heppner to keep us economically viable, without damaging the character, charm and vitality that makes this town such a fine place to live, work and raise kids."

Question 3) "Number one is probably jobs, or rather, the lack thereof. The Kinzua shutdown was a tough hit for Heppner to take and we need to regain that lost ground through light industry or other enterprises that inject cash and jobs into the local economy. We're also facing a major water system upgrade at a time when rates are already a contentious issue among many residents, particularly those on fixed incomes. And, as always, I

think we need to keep a tight rein on city operating costs by focusing on the basics of city government- law enforcement, fire protection, municipal utilities, streets and parks."

Question 4) "With respect to the local economy, we've already hit some bumps in the road and the problems won't get solved overnight. However, we've got good people in the chamber of commerce and our local economic development group working on it, so my outlook is hopeful. For the near term, I anticipate slow but steady growth in tourism, a few new small businesses gracing Main Street, a gradual influx of retirees (rich ones, hopefully), and continuation of Heppner's status as one of the cleanest small towns around. Heppner is loaded with tough, compassionate people who pull together in good times and bad. Whatever the future brings us, I think we'll face it together and get by quite nicely. And if that ain't a bright future, then I guess I don't know what is."

City Council Position #3 is uncontested this year with a current member of the council, Kay Robinson, running as the candidate.

Robinson, 74, has lived in Morrow County since birth. She and her husband, Creston, have one adult son and one adult daughter, who is now deceased.



Kay Robinson

Robinson has served as a city councilor for 14-1/2 years and served 1-1/2 years as mayor of Heppner.

Question 2) "Helping our economy grow."

Question 3) "Completing our new water system; retaining the businesses we have and working to find new ones."

Question 4) "Working to keep the city economy growing- businesses, etc. Also, seeing the hospital and clinic remain open."

The last day to register to vote is Tuesday, Oct. 12. Ballots will be mailed out on Friday, Oct. 15 and must be returned by Tuesday, Nov. 2 by 8 p.m.

Willows Grange to hold Spaghetti Feed

Come and join the activity at Willows Grange in Ione on Friday, Oct. 8. The Grange will be hosting a Spaghetti Feed, with entertainment by the Blue Mountain Old Time Fiddlers Association.

Music and meal will be \$8 for seniors, \$7 for students, \$2.50 ages 6-12 and under 6 is free. Meal only will be \$5 for 12 and older and \$2.50 for ages 6-12. Music only will be \$4 for seniors and \$3 for students.

Electric Co-Op announces photo contest

Columbia Basic Electric Co-Op is pleased to announce a Photo Contest to be held this fall. The Cooperative is looking for entries from which to select quality prints to be enlarged and put on permanent display.

Entries will be received the week of Nov. 1-5, closing on Friday at 5 p.m., at both the Heppner and Condon offices. Entries must be photographs, either standard or digital, color or black-and-white, with some indication or reference to electricity or electrical infrastructure. This required element may be very minor, however. A panel appointed by CBEC will perform independent judging of entries. Judge's decisions will be final. There will be two entry classes: entries of people/animals and entries of landscapes/general interest. The same photo may be entered in both classes if desired, but a copy for each class will be required. Each entry must be titled.

There will be awarded a first, second and third place finish for each class, with prizes granted being \$50 for each first place, \$35 for each second place and \$15 for each third place award. Entrants will agree to allow CBEC to enlarge, frame and permanently display winning entries at CBEC's discretion, with no compensation or value paid. Appropriate recognition will be noted of entrant. All entrants must be members/consumers of CBEC. No single entrant may submit more than four entries in any one class.

Anyone wishing additional information or detail may call Tom Wolff of CBEC's Heppner office at 676-9146.

Willow Creek Symphony and Singers to hold local concerts

The Willow Creek Symphony and Singers, a branch of the Inland Northwest Musicians organization, will be performing locally twice during their 2004-2005 season. The first performance will be Dec. 5 in Ione. The concert will feature selections by Mozart and Grieg, as well as holiday musical selections. The second local performance will be April 17 in Heppner.

The Willow Creek Symphony and Singers are looking for musicians who are interested in rehearsing and performing in these concerts. The two groups rehearse on Tuesday evenings at the Heppner Elementary School music room. The symphony rehearses from 6-7:30 p.m. and the singers from 7:30-8:30 p.m.

For more information, contact Myrna VanCleave at 676-5448.

Wedding Tables

Melissa McElligott & Josh Coiner
Wedding - Saturday, October 9th

Donita Daniels & Pastor Keith Brudevold
Wedding - Sunday, October 17th

Murray's Drug
217 North Main • Heppner
676-9158
Serving Heppner, Lexington & Ione

Murray's Country
Rose
233 N. Main • Heppner
676-9426



HEPPNER ELKS 358

676-9181 "Where Friends Meet" 142 North Main

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7th

LADIES' NIGHT: Mexican Dinner Night starting at 6 p.m.! Erin Anderson and Lindsey Orem, chefs, serving Chicken Enchiladas, Mexican Rice, Refried Beans, Chips, Fresh Salsa and Vanilla Bean Ice Cream. Elks families welcome to attend!

BINGO IS BACK ON WEDNESDAY NIGHTS, at 7 p.m.



Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m.

presently meeting
in the Seventh-Day Adventist Church, 560 N. Minor
(Water Street toward high school, left on Minor)

Come worship with us!
Pastor Keith Price - 256-0101