

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

**Heppner
GAZETTE-TIMES**

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Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper

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Katie Foster Editor

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For Obituaries: Obituaries are published in the Heppner GT at no charge and are edited to meet news guidelines. Families wishing to include information not included in the guidelines or who wish to have the obituary written in a certain way must purchase advertising space for the obituary.
For Letters to the Editor: Letters to the Editor MUST be signed by the author. The Heppner GT will not publish unsigned letters. All letters MUST include the author's address and phone number for use by the GT office. The GT reserves the right to edit letters. The GT 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 \$10.

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Key labor groups back Greg Smith for re-election

"I am honored to be endorsed by these two important labor groups," said State Representative Greg Smith (R-Heppner) today. Smith announced he has received endorsements from the Oregon Education Association (OEA) and the Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council (OSBCTC).

A letter of recommendation was sent to Smith from the Eastern Oregon and Columbia River UniServe Councils of the OEA representing hundreds of teachers in Smith's area. When asked about the endorsement, Laurie Wimmer Whelan of the Oregon Education Association said, "We continue to appreciate that Rep. Smith cares deeply about the quality of Oregon's public education for our students. That's way the teachers and other school employees of House District 57 have once again recommended him for re-election."

Smith explained, "I have five children in my family. I care about the future of their education and the future for all of Oregon's children." The OEA screens candidates on issues such as school funding, class sizes, college programs and other issues. He added, "Teachers have a critical job. They are the ones in the forefront of the fight to help our students achieve. We need to support them as much as possible."

The Trades Council also sent an endorsement letter thanking Smith for serving Oregon and the 30,000 members of the Council. "These skilled union tradesmen and women appreciate your willingness to listen and act on their issues. Their concerns embody the concerns of many working families throughout Oregon. We look forward to working with you as you serve the people of Oregon."

"I'm proud of the efforts we've made in the legislature to help create jobs, such as the Connect Oregon package, but I also support the great job the construction unions do to move these projects from the drawing board to reality," said Smith. OSBCTC represents 26 affiliated union locals including plumbers, electricians, ironworkers and teamsters.

Rep. Smith was instrumental in getting the Connect Oregon program passed by the 2005 Legislature. It covers \$100 million in infrastructure needs for airports, railroads and other non-roadway transportation projects. Smith is a strong proponent of small business development, which relies heavily on these trades workers. He is currently seeking his fourth term in the Oregon Legislature.

ELECT



**LOYAL
BURNS**

**MORROW COUNTY
COMMISSIONER**

~ Letters to the Editor ~

The Heppner Gazette Times will print all letters to the Editor with the following criteria met: letters submitted to the newspaper will need to have the name of the sender along with a legible signature. We are also requesting that you provide your address and a phone number where you can be reached. The address and phone number will only be used for verification and will not be printed in the newspaper. Letters may not be libelous. The GT reserves the right to edit. The GT 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 \$10.

ODOT appreciated for creating safer winter travel

To the Editor:

Winter driving in our area can be quite dangerous.

I commend the Oregon Department of Transportation for their diligence in keeping Heppner grade and Hwy. 206/207 safe for drivers during the winter season.

I had to travel that area on Sunday mornings for the early worship service at Valby Lutheran. When the road had icy spots, it was a

welcomed sound to hear gravel hitting the fender wells, especially on the curves.

The efforts of those who checked the roads during the earliest morning hours and then laid the safety layer helped all who drove the area. I for one want to express my appreciation to ODOT employees for a job well done.

(s) Rev. Donald E.
Swanson
Heppner

County court answers excise tax questions

To the Editor:

On March 15, the Morrow County Court referred a ballot title for the May 16 primary election seeking approval of a Speedway Activity District Excise Tax. We have heard many of the same questions and concerns raised at the informational meetings that have occurred across Morrow County in the past couple of weeks. The purpose of this letter is to provide factual answers to these common questions.

Question: Will Morrow County general tax funds be used to support development of the speedway? No. Morrow County's agreement with the developer is that Morrow County's regular tax funds not subsidize this development, now or in the future. The tax ordinance makes clear the costs of administering the tax are to be borne by the Speedway developed until such time as the County's share of the tax covers these costs. Morrow County has committed to seek "conduit financing" of public improvement bonds to finance the road improvements that will need to be constructed to support the Speedway. These bonds will be backed by the developer's letter of credit. No Morrow County funds will be pledged to support issuance or security of the

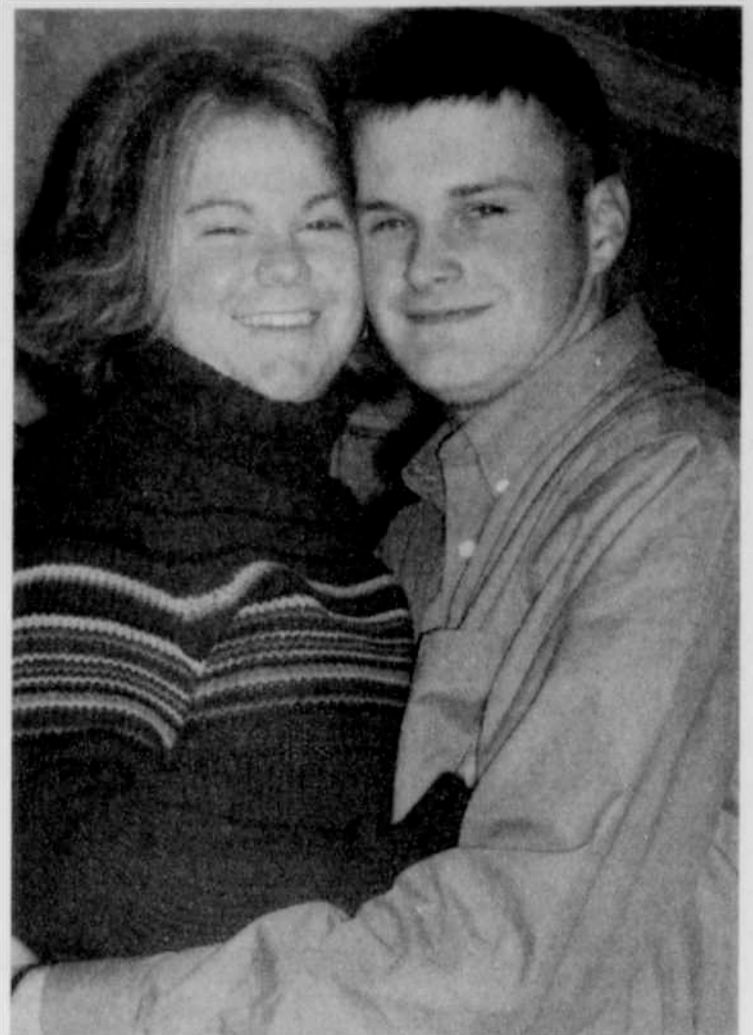
Legion Auxiliary district president to visit local chapter

The District 6 President will visit the American Legion Auxiliary on April 10 for her yearly visitation. There will be a joint potluck with the Legion at 6:30 p.m., at St. Patrick's Senior Center. Plans will be made for Poppy Days, which will be held in May. Election of officers for 2006-07 will also be discussed.

The Auxiliary has donated over \$1000 to the following: The Dalles Veterans Home, National State President Project, National President Project, Memorial fund to the two Pendleton soldiers killed in action, Women Veterans Memorial, bought a brick for the Vietnam Memorial located at Canby, Christmas gift certificate and donated to the Support our Soldiers support group.

All Legion and Auxiliary members are welcome to attend the April 10 meeting.

Engagement Graybeal-Evans



Kylee Graybeal and Casey Evans

Gary and Karen Graybeal of Pendleton wish to announce the engagement of their daughter, Kylee Elaine Graybeal of Helix to Casey Kyle Evans of Helix.

The bride-elect is a 1999 graduate of Pendleton High School. She attended Lane Community College and Eastern Oregon University and is employed at Farm Equipment Headquarters in Pendleton.

The groom-elect is the son of Monte and Becky Evans of Heppner. He graduated in 1999 from Heppner High School and is a graduate of Blue Mountain Community College in Pendleton. He is employed with Bracher Farms in Pendleton.

The couple plans a June 24 wedding in Pendleton.

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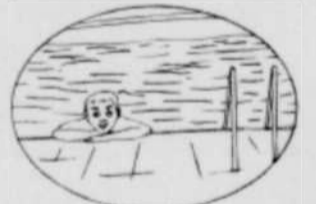
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