

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

All News and Advertising Deadline is Monday at 5 p.m.

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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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~ 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.

**Grieb has dedication and passion**

To the Editor:  
The voters of Morrow County will soon have an opportunity to vote on a new county commissioner. Please join us in voting for Ken Grieb. Ken has proven to be a very effective communicator through his work with the Wheat Growers' League and the many committees and boards he has voluntarily worked for. He and his family give endless volunteer hours to the community, and to our kids, through the schools, athletics, service on boards of local businesses and local districts.

We think that Ken is dedicated to Morrow County and its future and has proven that dedication over and over. We believe he will carry that dedication and passion with him as commissioner and work hard to do what is best for the county. Join us in voting for Ken Grieb for Morrow County Commissioner.

(s) Steve and Lisanne  
Currin  
Heppner

**Sheriff's Association endorses Elizabeth Ballard for DA**

To the Editor:  
The Morrow County Sheriff's Office Association is proud to endorse Elizabeth Ballard for Morrow County District Attorney.

For the past three and a half years, Elizabeth has had a good professional relationship with the association as deputy district attorney. Elizabeth is trusted by the deputies to aggressively pursue and prosecute cases brought to the district attorney's office. She works hand-in-hand with deputies in prosecuting drug related crimes, ensuring the best possible adjudication.

Elizabeth also works closely with the Victim Advocacy Program ensuring that victim's of domestic violence and other personal crimes are protected and informed.

Elizabeth has proven to be dedicated and professional and is an asset to our association as well as our county as a whole. Join the association on May 16 and vote for the best candidate, Elizabeth Ballard for district attorney.

(s) John A. Bowles,  
President  
Morrow County Sheriff's  
Office Association

**Speedway gives county and local economies boost**

To the Editor:  
Having worked with local government finances as well as in private industry in Morrow County for the last 13 years, I can say from experiences, that the proposed speedway activity district and surrounding proposed development would provide a desperately needed boost to the economic base of many of the districts and communities in Morrow County.

Because Morrow County's assessed value is so heavily weighted with utilities, as those utilities depreciate in value, it has been very difficult for the county and other county-wide districts to maintain their assessed value and thereby collect the taxes necessary in order to maintain existing services. In addition, I have watched our local communities get smaller and smaller over the last several years. While this is a wonderful place to live, with lots of great people, the county desperately needs additional industry, and this project sounds like it may be the catalyst to start that ball rolling.

Even better, with the proposed excise tax, you will only pay if you use the facilities. However, you will benefit by the increase in jobs, increase in economic development potential and hopefully an increase in value for our local taxing districts. Please join us in voting yes for the Morrow County Speedway Activity District excise tax, providing a much-needed boost to our local economies.

(s) Steve and Lisanne  
Currin  
Heppner

**Fogelson trustworthy of judge position**

To the Editor:  
I am writing to let you know about my father, Steve Fogelson, and how qualified he is to become your circuit court judge. From an early age, my dad instilled in me the importance of telling the truth and doing right by others. He also has taught me the meaning of being a part of my community. My brother and I have helped him in many community projects with the Lion's Club. My dad has been a prosecutor, protecting children from abuse and the public from crime. I remember him being passionate about his job and his clients, doing whatever was necessary to accomplish justice. I know of no other person who I would trust as your circuit court judge as much as my dad. So please vote Steve Fogelson for circuit court judge.

(s) Leslie Knight  
Cottage Grove

**Health District Board unanimous in support of speedway project**

continued from page one

district and plans on moving to the area with his wife and two children. Vander Does said that Dr. Zachary Hale of the Tri-Cities has indicated that he anticipates arriving in the community within three to six months, pending accreditation and licensing. Vander Does said that he may be able to work for the district part-time prior to coming to the community full time.

Dr. Sam Datta, who works for the district full-time, has announced that he will leave the district in May. Dr. Ed Berretta, who lives out of the area, currently works for the district part-time; Heppner physician, Dr. Ken Wenberg, works primarily in the Pioneer Memorial Hospital emergency room; physician's assistants Sheridan Tarnasky, Heppner, and Terry Anderson, Irrigon, are both employed full time by the district.

Vander Does said that another doctor from the John Day area, Dr. Russell Nichols, has also indicated interest in working full time for the district. Vander Does said that Russell may initially be able work for the district part-time as an emergency room doctor. Dr. Russell and his wife have three children, according to Vander Does.

In other business the board:

-received the 2006-07 proposed budget which shows \$4,895,477 in total resources, excluding taxes, and \$875,357 in anticipated taxes for \$5,770,804 in total resources; and \$5,922,180 in total expenditures, which results in a \$1,513,766 shortfall. Mahoney said the cash shortfall "is due in part to the fact that the \$219,500 of budgeted capital expenditures are anticipated to be paid in full at the time of purchase as opposed to being financed over several years. In order to cover all of the budgeted expenditures for \$2006-07, cash reserves from prior year operations will need to be used." Mahoney said the proposed budget does not include any new borrowing.

The proposed budget includes \$45,000 for a new telephone system and conversion to a fiber optic system, which should result in dramatic savings for the district; a hospital heating system service/upgrade at \$13,000; a defibrillator for the Boardman Ambulance at \$18,000; \$20,000 in improvements to the administrator's house, which is owned by the district; \$6,000 for a patient "EZ stand/walker/scale"; \$7,500 for resurfacing the hospital's back parking area; and \$110,000 for a new ambulance. "We're in a pretty good position to fund expenditures," said Mahoney.

Board members, however, indicated some concern with the timing of the expiration of the district's three-year tax levy in 2007. The levy will expire at a time when an election for a new levy would require a double majority. Vander Does and

the board agree that an election for an additional tax levy would best be held in the 2008 general election, which would not require a double majority.

Mahoney said that Nate Arbogast with WindWave Communications has discovered a federal program, which would enable the health district to afford to run fiber optic cable into health district facilities in Heppner and Boardman at an 80 percent cost reduction. Mahoney said the system would result in a significant savings for the district, as opposed to traditional phone lines, and would greatly improve communications between the Heppner and Irrigon facilities and with medical specialists, including the St. Charles Medical Center at Bend and OHSU. Fiber optic cable has already been installed throughout the county.

The board also approved an additional \$4,500 towards purchase of defibrillators for all elementary schools in the county-Heppner Elementary School, Irrigon Elementary, A.C. Houghton Elementary in Irrigon, Sam Boardman Elementary, Windy River Elementary at Boardman and Ione Elementary. The contribution would cover half the cost of the defibrillators, with the school districts asked to pick up the remainder.

In other business, the board:

-learned that Pioneer Memorial Clinic had 404 patients in March; with 31 new patients and an additional 51 seen by a nurse; Irrigon Clinic had 195 patients with 31 new patients, 47 seen by a nurse and 27 no shows; Heppner Ambulance had 20 total runs with 18 transports for \$14,708 in revenue; Boardman Ambulance had 28 total runs with 17 transports for \$15,138 in revenue; Irrigon had 17 total runs with 14 transports for \$11,268; there were five flights; Pioneer Memorial Hospital had eight admissions for March, 449 outpatients, 57 emergency room encounters, 1363 lab tests, 93 x-ray procedures, 35 CT scans, 17 EKG tests, six treadmill procedures, one sigmoid procedure and two respiratory therapy procedures; Home Health had 171 visits; pharmacy had 1055 drug doses for \$65,174 in revenue.

-learned from Director of Nursing, Home Health and Hospice and trauma coordinator Molly Rhea that Pioneer Memorial Hospital has been awarded a three-year full status Level IV trauma hospital categorization. "It's a great letter and a good report," commented board Chair Larry Mills.

-accepted the PMH Home Health annual agency evaluation.

**ICABO supports speedway and excise tax**

To the Editor:  
The Ione Community Agri-Business Organization (ICABO) was created almost two decades ago, to promote the enrichment of our community, school and businesses. We have had many successes and still, we as a group, need to look to the future in creating a better way of life in our communities.

After attending informational meetings, and a hard look at the proposed Oregon International Speedway project, it became abundantly clear that economic development this project brings to Morrow County is in the best interest for the communities and the taxpayers. It needs to move forward and succeed and the first step is to support the effort.

The second step is to pass the excise tax for the Speedway District and in doing so will fund roads to and from the speedway and freeway improvements to mitigate traffic concerns. It will provide for the development of infrastructures, which include water, waste disposal, electric and communications for the Speedway and surrounding businesses in the district.

At our ICABO meeting held April 12, members present voted to support both the Speedway Project and district excise tax. We would like to ask you, the voters, to help with a yes vote on May 16, 2006.

Our future is bright. Be in support.

(s) Ione Community Agri-Business Organization  
Loyal R. Burns, Jr.  
President

**Spicer will be fair and impartial judge**

To the Editor:  
It is a pleasure to write a letter of support for Ann Spicer for Circuit Court judge. I have known Ann since she and her husband moved to Heppner in 1977. Ann and I have worked together in several areas including serving on

the Oregon Trail Library board together. She has always been knowledgeable, caring and fair in her dealings with other people. She has considerable legal experience in a wide variety of arenas. I believe she will be a fair and impartial judge.

(s) Barbara Hayes  
Heppner

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for a Mexican Buffet  
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ALL YOU CAN EAT!  
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