

~ 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.

Caution should be taken when looking at speedway

To the Editor:

Let's approach the "speedway" proposal with a word of caution. Every promoter of any development of this magnitude will only supply facts to support his proposal.

Before making a commitment to this gigantic proposal and wishful endeavor, let us also examine the possible negative effects.

If I were as sure of this under taking as the promoters, I would make every effort to buy or take options on every piece of property available in south Morrow County.

We have an economic depression in our end of the county, which would greatly benefit from

this growth at the north end. I would only hope that any growth and development would also benefit all of the Willow Creek Valley.

Another consideration would be the noise factor, which would probably not affect us, but for families east of the "speedway" it could be a huge problem.

Having racecars and motorcycles blasting away day and night for most of the year, would not be conducive to a peaceful neighborhood.

So, let's have a word of caution and be informed of the drawbacks of this endeavor.

(s) Archie Padberg
Heppner

Experience and make Spicer right for judge

To the Editor:

As a former district attorney, Ann Spicer understands the need for a judge to insure that sentencing guidelines are followed and that society is protected from habitual criminals. As a judge she will review criminal cases and plea bargains to see that the

punishment fits the crime. When the situation calls for it, she will have the courage to keep the offender behind bars.

Please vote for person who has proven she can be tough on crime, vote for Ann Spicer for Circuit Judge.

(s) Florene Robinson
Heppner

Current DA supports Elizabeth Ballard's candidacy

To the Editor:

It is a pleasure to write this letter of support for Elizabeth Ballard as Morrow County District Attorney. During her more than three years of service as Morrow County Deputy District Attorney, Elizabeth has proven herself to be a highly skilled and effective prosecutor. Elizabeth is always prepared and up to date on recent developments in the law. She has fostered credibility with all of the judges she appears before on behalf of Morrow County. I believe she is the clear candidate to succeed me as district attorney.

One candidate for district attorney has said they would "take control of these agencies." This statement underlines a fundamental lack of understanding about the process. The district attorney is not a dictator. Rather, an effective district attorney works with law enforcement agencies, developing a team approach to fighting crime. On a daily basis, the district attorney's office works with representatives from the Morrow County Sheriff's Department, the City of Boardman Police Department, Morrow County Juvenile Department, Morrow County Behavioral Health and parole and probation. The fact that representatives from all of these organizations have endorsed Elizabeth speaks highly of her ability to foster effective partnerships in fighting crime. I doubt seriously whether the other two candidates would be as effective in working with local law enforcement. The endorsements speak for themselves.

Perhaps most important, Elizabeth is familiar with Morrow

County's current law enforcement problems and available resources. Some have said this office is not doing enough to combat the raging methamphetamine epidemic. Nothing could be further from the truth. This office routinely prosecutes cases that many other counties do not. These so called "residue" drug cases are regularly prosecuted when there is any detectable amount of controlled substances found. Many counties in Oregon do not have sufficient resources to prosecute such crimes. In Morrow County, if you are found with any detectable amount of drugs you go to jail right then and there. Unfortunately, with only 11 jail beds available, Morrow County cannot keep every drug addict in jail. Further, Oregon's sentencing guidelines prescribe a probationary sentence for most drug offenses. In reality, many of these drug offenders do spend significant time in jail when they are unable to successfully complete their probation. It is easy to say you are going to "wipe out" methamphetamine, however, I am not aware of any county in America that has been successful in eliminating this scourge from their communities. Unfortunately, meth is a nationwide problem that will require statewide and nationwide solutions, such as the recently introduced meth bills in the Oregon legislature and U.S. Congress.

Please join me in voting for Elizabeth Ballard as the next Morrow County District Attorney. She is the right choice for continued strong prosecution of all crimes in Morrow County

(s) David C. Allen
Morrow County District Attorney
Heppner

Health District sees speedway as positive impact on county

To the Editor:

The voters of Morrow County have an opportunity on May 16 to make a positive impact on our county's economic well being.

A Yes vote to support an excise tax within the Speedway Activity District's boundaries is essential to move economic growth here forward. The impact of the Speedway

would be far-reaching, creating jobs and growth throughout the county- a positive return without property tax impact on Morrow County residents.

We strongly support a Yes vote on Ballot Measure 25-45.

(s) Morrow County Health District
Board of Directors

Make developer pay his own way, don't support the excise tax

To the Editor:

I recently clicked on the www.yesmcs.com website and was surprised to read the form letters signed by Pendleton Pepsi Bottling, Three Mile Farms, R.D.O. John Deer Equipment, Tidewater, Tillamook, Potlatch, Rinker Materials, Swire Coke and Blue Cross. Hoping to gain some insight into why people would vote for this, I read on. These people are not in favor of the Excise Tax District. They are looking to cash in on the perks offered if they join in on the initial stages of the "speedway project" like exclusive premium opportunities and discounts to marketing packages, sky boxes, VIP garage suites, signage opportunities, utilizing golf and recreation facilities, reduced rates on services, naming rights to special events and of course membership benefits. Included in the signing of the letter, come inception rights into the Lewis and Clark Founders Circle (reserved exclusively for those who will sign on as supporters, known to the rabbit as, a carrot). In not one letter from and including the letters from the Governor, Senator, Mayor or anyone else did I find that they are in favor of the Excise Tax. Don't be fooled by who is in favor of the track and who is in favor of the Sales Tax and why that is. No politician or business in Oregon wants to be connected with more government taxing, especially for private gain.

Voting no, would actually open the door for developers who actually have the monetary means to build this track as a stand alone venture as it was sold to the public in the beginning. Putting Morrow County's good name on bonds that may become junk bonds down the road is risky business. Just ask Seattle. As you know everything is open to litigation and lawsuits. Their bond rating dropped so low after the monorail project, voters wanted to put government officials across the rails and wait for any train to come. Someone always pays when corporations default on bonds. Remember the W.H.O.O.P.S Bonds? Safe, publicly secured bonds. Do you remember who paid for them when they moth-balled the plants. You did. Whoops. Morrow County don't get sucked into this. Let the wealthy race team owner, his rich baseball friend and their motor sport investor's pay their own way. Don't let them leach off Morrow County while they line their own pockets. Let someone in here to do this right or we will be sorry.

P.S. Shame on the Yes committee for using the good names of these politicians and businesses under false pretences. Shame on these politicians and businesses who don't even live, or vote, in our county for letting them use these letters.

(s) Mary Reade
Boardman

Youth and communication skills make Grieb right as commissioner

To the Editor:

We are writing to urge Morrow County voter support for Ken Grieb for county commissioner.

Ken is a successful agri-businessman with a proven record of being able to work with people to reach satisfactory decisions.

Ken has served on several committees and boards within the county and was president of the Oregon Wheat Growers League where he has honed his

leadership and communication skills.

We think Ken will make an excellent addition to county government. He will bring a perspective from a younger generation that will be a valuable asset in terms of long term planning for the county and improved communication with county residents.

Please join us in voting for Ken Grieb for county commissioner.

(s) Larry and Betty Mills
Heppner

Integrity makes Spicer best person for judge

To the Editor:

The person who is the best for circuit judge position five is Ann Spicer. As an attorney, she is very concerned with providing her clients the best service possible. She will be the same as a judge, wanting to provide the public with only

the best. Going to court can be a traumatic experience. Ann will treat each person she deals with in court with integrity while making sure that the law is correctly applied.

Vote for Ann Spicer for Circuit Judge.

(s) Rosemary Burns
Heppner

Spicer's idea of more accessible court good for the public

To the Editor:

We would like to join other residents of Morrow County to add our support to Annetta Spicer for District 6 Circuit Court Judge, Position 5. It is always nice to have a local person representing and understanding your interest on the court. Ann has

demonstrated honesty, fairness and what we would consider a judicial temperament. We believe Ann's idea of a court more accessible to the public is good.

Please join us in voting for Annetta Spicer.

(s) Nancy and Victor
Vander Does
Heppner


ODFW to hold public meetings

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife will be holding public meetings in Heppner and Fossil to discuss the 2006 hunting season tag recommendations. The first meeting will be on Wednesday, May 3 starting at 7 p.m. at the Heppner ODFW office. The office is located in the old Kinzua mill office at 54173 Highway 74. The second meeting will be on Thursday, May 4, starting at 7 p.m., at the Fossil Community Center, 401 4th Street.

All 2006 hunting season proposed tag numbers will be available. People are encouraged to stop by and visit with the biologists concerning any wildlife questions they may have.

LEXINGTON AUTO BODY IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH LOOSLIE AUTO BODY.
Lexington Auto Body is doing Auto Body Repair, Glass Repair and Replacement, and Towing.

★ Elect ★



Ken Grieb
Morrow County Commissioner
"Working for ALL of Morrow County"

- Morrow County Grain Growers' Board
- Morrow County Wheat Growers' President 1999 & 2000
- Oregon Wheat Growers' League President 2003
- Morrow County Soil & Water Conservation District 1998-Present
- Morrow County Planning Commission 1997-Present
- Morrow County School District Advisory Committee 1999-2003
- Lobby wheat issues at State and National level
- SMART reading volunteer, Heppner Elementary School
- Oregon Wheat Foundation Board
- Ione Community Agri-Business Organization
- North Morrow Vector Control District
- National Association of Wheat Growers' Budget Committee
- Morrow County School District Ag Science Advisory Committee
- OSU Extension Advisory Committee
- Morrow County Pre-Disaster Mitigation Committee

Ken Grieb
Leadership for Morrow County

Paid for by Elect Grieb Committee



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Peterson's Jewellers
Heppner 676-9200