

~ 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.

**Your community needs to decide and get involved**

My name is Bill Egan and I have been involved in both cold and warm water fisheries for over 40 years. I have been fishing Willow Creek Reservoir for about 20 years, mostly for crappie and bass. Your reservoir has produced good 10-11 crappie and bass to six pounds and over the years I have introduced a number of others to Willow Creek. Your irrigators are untreated in their crops not the fishery. A draw down as suggested would come at a time when crappie, bluegill and catfish are spawning and as seen elsewhere would eventually destroy this fishery. Planting stocked trout only goes so far and a draw down would allow the lake to warm to where trout might not survive past early July.

The blue green algae bloom does not kill fish or stop fishing. The draw down would leave the boat launch high and dry from July until fall rains and kill park use. The irrigators under valued the price for their crops by at least 1/3<sup>rd</sup> and as they charge to higher valued crops they'd use more, not less, water.

It's a tough decision that money usually wins out. Letters to the Corp of Engineers from local residents carry a lot of weight. Your community needs to decide and get involved.

Bill Egan, Oregon Bass and Panfish Club  
Portland

**Your ultimate decision will be at election time**

For nearly a year now the Mayors and Managers of Morrow County Cities have advocated for a more fair and equitable distribution of Findley Buttes landfill tipping fees. Through a series of public and private conversations with the Morrow County Court we have been unable to agree on a plan for any amount or percentage to be allocated to community development.

While the County does have a Needs and Issues program, funding for that program is so uncertain from year-to-year that future planning is impossible. Grants awarded from that program depend heavily on which community sends the most effective representative and the County Court holds both the purse strings and has veto power.

By the time you read this, the Mayors and Managers will have filed the necessary signatures to perfect an initiative election. The initiative proposes an ordinance that will require a distribution to the County's five very different communities. While you may hear a bit of political rhetoric, the Mayors and Managers are committed to providing you with factual information so you may make an informed decision.

It is not the Mayors and Managers intent to cripple County government and we will show you how a phase-in will not jeopardize County revenues. We only seek to develop our communities in a way unique to our different requirements. After all, everyone, City resident or not, identifies with one community more than the others.

The ordinance will require distribution to each of the five City governments, but each City is intent on providing for its entire community based on a community consensus rather than a County-wide committee. However you may stand on this issue, your ultimate decision at election time will be whether your local community or the County Court can best serve the development needs in your own community.

Ed Glenn  
Mayor City of Boardman

**A suggestion for those wishing to see a change**

I am a long-time resident of Jefferson County. As I familiarize myself with the now infamous "Simmons Case," I was relieved that the way law is practiced by the judicial system in Jefferson County, especially since the passing of Measure 11, has finally been revealed to all Oregonians. I was also infuriated that Oregon's judicial system, to the highest level of the Oregon Supreme Court, failed to hold Deputy District Attorney Steven Leriche, Judge Daniel Ahern, Judge George Neilson, and Jennifer Kimble accountable for their errors and omissions. This is a perfect opportunity for every resident of Oregon, including the citizens of Jefferson County and the victims of crime, to realize that Jefferson County's judicial system is fatally flawed. Charges filed due to angry demands and prosecutors that are anxious to convict have led to the situation where the rule of law is no longer the practice in Jefferson County. Obviously, we are not able to depend upon those at the higher levels of the judicial system to act with integrity. A suggestion for those who wish to see a change in the current practice is to register malpractice complaints against Steven Leriche and Jennifer Kimble with the Oregon State Bar, 5200 SW Meadows Road, Lake Oswego, OR 97035 (503) 620-0222, toll-free in Oregon (800) 452-8260, and complaints for censure, suspension, or removal against Judges George Neilson and Daniel Ahern with The Oregon Commission on Judicial Fitness, P.O. Box 1130, Beaverton, OR 97075 (503) 626-6776.

Tina Towler  
Madras

**Parent group announces graduation party plans**

Parents of Heppner High School seniors met recently with school administrators to plan a graduation party for their children who will be graduating this spring. The party, a new idea for Heppner High School, is hoped to become an annual event.

"The students have met, and voted to hold their celebration at the school, with all kinds of entertainment and amusements," said Tom Wolff, publicity committee chair. "We are having great participation from the parents, and the students have decided on just what they want involved in the party." The group will meet each month through March, to plan for the after-graduation event.

Graduation is scheduled for 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 31. The party is to start at 7 p.m. that evening, and run all night. "In the area, Milton-Freewater and Condon have held this type of event for several years now, and have had great success with a fun, safe, and memorable celebration," said Wolff. "It is hoped that this event will become a tradition at Heppner High also."

Bottled water, with the Senior Class logo on the label, will be marketed through Heppner Family Foods to raise funds to pay for the party and prizes. "Every graduating senior will get some really great gifts," said Daye Stone, HHS administrator. Gifts and prizes will be purchased and solicited to provide the seniors with useful items to start their adult lives with. "We want to design a party that is fun, safe, and worth attending," said Wolff, adding, "We want all the graduating seniors to attend, and go away with great memories and some really nice items: TVs, microwaves, Mp3 players, luggage, and stereos are to be included in the prize list." Parents and students both are involved in the planning process.

The next meeting will be held in January, and will be announced on Heppner's Channel Three and at the school.

**Piano students perform recital**



Piano students recently performed in a recital in Heppner on December 9. Top photo (L-R): Maggie Flynn, Hannah Flynn, Patrick Burch, Cord Flynn, Alex Lindsay, Jacee Currin, Kolby Currin, Naleah Stone, Morgan Burch; back row (L-R): Leo Waite, Morgan Orem, Reiah Waite, Nalani Stone, Kellen Grant, Sebastian Wenberg, Noah Wenberg, Shayna Osmen, and Jaiden Mahoney. Bottom photo (L-R): Kristen Van Cleave, RJ Skaggs, Jessica Hamilton, Sarah Stillman, Kevin Murray, Sophie Grant, Cara Arbogast, Diana Healy, Cade Arbogast, and Daniel Van Cleave; back row (L-R): Kaid Peck, Jessie Flynn, Bethany Van Cleave, Kaelyn Lindsay, Emily Rea, Amanda Rea, and Kai Arbogast.

**Students find incentive in application fee waivers**

Students enrolling at Eastern Oregon University can take advantage of a new policy allowing the admissions application fee to be waived and credited to their first tuition bill.

The change in policy to waive the fee was announced this week. In recent years, EOU has waived the application fee on specific dates and for campus visitors.

"Many students are at such a great distance that they cannot visit our campus, or even one of our regional centers," said Danny Aynes, interim director of admissions at EOU. "We decided to create a policy that was equitable to all prospective students."

The seven institutions in the Oregon University System all charge an application fee. The \$50 fee charged by EOU helps offset the cost of processing admissions applications and allows the university to make adjustments to the academic schedule when needed.

"By tracking student interest we can offer more classes in certain areas and make better predictions about future enrollment," Aynes said. "It is our hope that prospective students will look at the fee waiver as a small payment toward their education at EOU."

For more information about the application fee waiver contact the EOU Admissions Office at (541) 962-3393.

Eastern Oregon University serves as an educational, cultural and scholarly center in La Grande, Oregon, connecting the rural regions of the state to a wider world. Visit EOU on the Web at [www.eou.edu](http://www.eou.edu).

**HHS Christmas Concert to be held Dec. 18**

The Junior and Senior High band and choir Christmas Concert will be held Tuesday, December 18, at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria at Heppner High School.

**Closed for Christmas**

The Heppner Gazette-Times will be closed for the Christmas holidays on Monday and Tuesday, December 24 and 25.

Newspaper deadlines will be Friday, December 21, at 5 p.m.

**Divorces**

The Morrow County Circuit Court at the M.C. Courthouse in Heppner has released the following report:

-November 30:  
Brent G. Evans and Terry A. Evans.

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Morrow County Public Works would like to remind everyone when you are loading garbage up for the transfer stations to please keep in mind we have a separate wood bin and a separate metal bin. These items do not get put in with your regular household garbage. So please keep the wood and metal separated out for easy dumping. *Thank you.*

North End Transfer Station: 69900 Frontage Lane, Boardman, OR 97818. South End Transfer Station: 57185 Hwy. 74, Lexington, OR 97839. Both hours of operation: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Any questions or concerns may be addressed to (541) 989-9500.

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