

~ 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 life may depend on your vote**

Letter to the editor:

While browsing through the October 14 Wall Street Journal I noticed an article on closures of non-profit hospitals. These particular hospitals were dedicated to give "special attention to those who are poor and vulnerable." This business like approach and policy reversal leaves many who are in the lower income and non-insured category in desperate need of medical attention.

Thank goodness we live in a community where neighbors care about neighbors and that we each have a say in what kind of medical care we can afford and desire.

On November 4, Morrow County residents will decide if we too, will decide to close down rural health care here in Morrow County if we will continue with some of the best and most attentive health care in Eastern Oregon. The proposed five year Local Option Levy of \$0.39 to support Morrow County Health System is not only a bargain but is the lowest of the four Rural Community Districts in Eastern Oregon. This is not a tax increase but a simple continuation of the levy voted on in 2004.

I would shudder to think that our clinics in the various communities would be closed down or that doctors and nurses would be discouraged from locating here because of inadequate funding. Traveling from any point in Morrow County for emergency health care is life and death situation! In addition, one would expect to see evacuation of our senior citizens towards communities where health care abounds and is readily available. What a travesty this would be!

We commend the District Medical Board for its dedication to excellence in health care for us here in this rural area. Now it is up to the rest of us to decide if we want a continuation of the kind of medical care we are accustomed to or do we want to follow the closures that other major medical facilities are experiencing.

We would encourage you to join us in voting for the five year Health District Local Option Levy. Your life may depend on your vote!

Louis and Betty Carlson  
Heppner

**If needed volleyball playoff game will be Thursday**

If needed it has been reported that the Heppner Volleyball team will play Weston at Hermiston High School Thursday night Oct. 23 at 7p.m. to determine seeding at the district tournament.

**Sample dedicated to supporting community efforts to stop crime**

Letter to the editor:

Crime is the number one enemy in every community. It costs taxpayers money, hurts businesses and devastates families.

One way to combat crime is a prevention program called Neighborhood Watch. It has been a successful program protecting homeowners by keeping their communities safe.

Several years ago, a local group in Lexington who were tired of being the victims of crime, contacted the Morrow County Sheriff's Office and asked for assistance in starting a Neighborhood Watch program. The sheriff's deputy was instrumental in helping start the program, however when our concerns were voiced and unanswered we met with Sheriff Matlack but still didn't receive any responses. Our efforts were further dampened when the Lexington City Council did not support the Neighborhood Watch effort. The group disbanded with no support from either sheriff's department and city leaders.

Now we have a candidate for Morrow County Sheriff that wants to fight crime in our communities. Candidate Larry Sample has stated he plans to establish a citizen advisory committee in each community to help the sheriff's department determine what problems exist. He vows to work with these local communities to make them safe.

We need to elect Larry Sample as sheriff in Morrow County who is dedicated to supporting local community efforts to stop crime.

Marcia Kemp  
Lexington

**Letter of apology**

To the editor:

We are writing this letter to apologize for the article in the Gazette "Feel the Stang" following the Heppner vs. Pilot Rock football game. This article does not reflect the respect we have for our opponents. As friends, we were horsing around and did not know the article was going to be published in the newspaper. It is not something we are proud of and don't want to be known for such an attitude.

Heppner football has a reputation for conducting themselves with class and respect. This article has hurt the reputation and we are accountable for that. We hope all who read it can also read this apology and realize that we never intended to have those words published.

Cody Orr and Wacy Coil  
Heppner

*Editor's Note: The story "Feel the Stang" that is mentioned in this Letter to the Editor was submitted from Heppner High School to the Heppner Gazette-Times.*

**Who do you trust as president?**

To the editor:

On the one hand you have Obama who was mentored by his preacher of 20 years who openly gave anti-American and anti-white sermons. Further, Obama was schooled by his alma-mater, Columbia University, which does not allow military recruiters on their campus, but instead invites anti-American speakers to their campus such as the leader of Iran.

In addition, Obama's wife does not think highly of America either. Throughout her life, it wasn't until her husband's presidential campaign that she began to feel good about America.

But more importantly its Obama's actions that speak loudest. Prior to the presidential campaign, Obama aided anti-American terrorists by accusing the US military of intentionally slaughtering civilians in Iraq.

On the other hand you have the choice of McCain who risked his own life and has sacrificed more for his country than any other modern day president.

John Russell  
Salem

**High school essay contest launches**

If you are a high school student in Oregon, now is your chance to tell the Oregon Lincoln Bicentennial Committee (OLBC) about President Lincoln's leadership. The committee is seeking essays as part of Lincoln's 200th birthday celebration.

"As our greatest president, Abraham Lincoln still offers many lessons for all of us," says OLBC Chair Mike Burton. "His words and actions ring true and provide inspiration for leadership today."

All students in grades 9 to 12 who attend an Oregon school are encouraged to describe Lincoln's presidential leadership and how it could be applied to the United States today in 1,250 words or less. The deadline is February 12, 2009.

One \$1,500 cash prize and one \$500 prize will be awarded in each of Oregon's five congressional districts.

For more details on how to apply and rules, go to [www.ous.edu/lincoln](http://www.ous.edu/lincoln) or call (503) 725-9030.

**Open house to be held for Barton**

An open house will be held to thank local UPS man Jim Barton who will be retiring on Friday, November 14, after 28+ years of service to the Heppner community. The open house will be held from 1-3 p.m. at City Hall.

**1988 football team to be recognized**

The Heppner Mustang state runner up 1988 football team will be recognized on Friday, October 24, before the home game. Members that will be attending are asked to arrive by 6:30 p.m.

**DUTY.**

Greg Walden believes it is our duty to keep the promises to those who have worn our nation's uniform. That's why he led the effort to save the Veterans' Administration's Southern Oregon Rehabilitation Center and Clinics from closure - protecting health care for nearly 14,000 veterans. Greg has also supported the opening of new veterans' health clinics in Central, Southern and Eastern Oregon. And he strongly backed the newly expanded G.I. Bill which provides today's veterans with improved educational benefits similar to those provided to World War II veterans.

**Greg Walden: Making a real difference for us.**

**Greg Walden**  
FOR CONGRESS

[www.waldenforcongress.com](http://www.waldenforcongress.com)

Paid for by Walden For Congress

**GO THE EXTRA MILE!**

**Vote Kenneth Matlack for Sheriff**

*I support and endorse Kenneth Matlack for Morrow County Sheriff*

Paid for by Bobbi Childers, Morrow County Clerk