

~ 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.

Defend our most basic right as Americans

To the Editor:

I found the front page of the October 21st edition of the East Oregonian very ironic. One headline reads "Board Silences Pro-Life Event" regarding Pendleton School Board silencing a "Silent Protest" of high school students against abortion, while another reads, "Tiny Baby fights for Life" with a beautiful picture of a local baby born at one pound, 16 ounces.

In 1985 our first baby, Brian, was born at one pound, 1/2 ounce. Fully formed and beautiful, these tiny babies are only smaller than full term babies. Doesn't it seem not only ironic, but tragic, that in this country we allow the killing of babies much larger than this throughout all nine months of pregnancy? Just because a child is "wanted or not wanted" does not make it any less human. An unborn baby is either a baby or it isn't a baby. It is either alive or it isn't alive. In the 1800's the Supreme Court said slavery was legal. Would people polled today say that this made it okay for people to own and treat other people like animals? This decision was overturned. Just because our Supreme Court said in 1973 that abortion was legal throughout all nine months of pregnancy does not make it right. Our technology since 1973 has supported the viability and humanity of babies born at much earlier stages. We need to wake up to the fact that since 1973, 50,000,000 (that is million) babies have been killed by abortion. Each year more babies die from abortion than Americans died in the Revolutionary War, Civil War, World War I and II, Korean, Vietnam, Gulf and Iraq Wars combined. The term "Pro-Choice" is a misnomer for "Pro-Death" as the baby doesn't have a choice. More and more research shows that abortion hurts women and they suffer their whole life from its effects. Research Planned Parenthood and its founder Margaret Sanger. See how her belief in eugenics compares to those of a certain Adolf Hitler. America's abortion provider made \$1 billion in 2006-2007, an increase of 972 million from the previous year, which included \$336 million in taxpayer funding.

Barack Obama is the most radically pro-death presidential candidate in American history. See National Right to Life's website to see his record in the Illinois Senate and how he voted against the Born Alive Protection Act for babies "accidentally" surviving abortion. Look up "Gianna Jessen" who 31 years ago survived an abortion and lived to speak up against the reality of it. Read Obama's statement from 7-17-07 when he spoke to Planned Parenthood Action Fund where he stated "The first thing I'd do as president is sign the Freedom of Choice Act" -the proposed legislation invalidating any restrictions on abortion. Why are we surprised that in this country we deal with child abuse, neglect and violence when we allow a mother to kill her own child? We as Americans need to speak up, stand up and use our right to vote. Did not our founding fathers believe in our right to Life, Liberty and the pursuit of happiness? We must defend our most basic right. Vote Pro-Life.

Ann Murray
Heppner

Response to Kemp's letter

Dear Editor:

This is in response to Marcia Kemp's letter regarding the Lexington Town Council which appeared in last week's Gazette.

1. The Town Charter does not require a person to be a registered voter as a qualification for office as a council member. We have been down this road before, as Ms. Kemp well knows, and the Secretary of State closed the door on this "issue".

2. The Town Charter does prohibit "immediate family" serving on the council at the same time. However, the charter does not define "immediate family". Previously, the council has encouraged the most narrow definition-a person's spouse, parent or child living in the same household. The reason is simple: we have enough trouble filling council vacancies without arbitrarily limiting our potential victims - er..., volunteers. In any event, the final authority on interpreting the charter to determine candidate qualifications is the Town's Election Officer-Dee Burch. The Secretary of State was quite clear about this, also. (Do you really think the Secretary of State sends out an opinion letter to a complaining citizen without sending a copy to the town being complained of? We are assuming, of course, that Ms. Kemp's friend shared the information with her.)

3. The town recorder will not be performing audits. We have the opportunity, if the council chooses, to file our financial statements directly with the state next year so long as we spend less than \$500,000.00. No vote on that decision has been taken.

4. We have never had a third consecutive positive water sample at any site. When we have had samples that tested positive for total coliform we have complied scrupulously with the state public notification requirements. Please recall (as our notices explain) that coliform is not a health hazard. However, its presence indicates that the system is susceptible to brewing up some sort of bacteria that could be a problem - so we zap it with a little chlorine.

Political "puffery" is endemic during election seasons, and we rely upon the citizen's good sense to give it to the credit it is due. On the other hand, making misrepresentations about the safety of the drinking water, or public funds management, demands a response. If anyone has further questions, please call Town Hall and get the correct information.

Val Doherty
Sam Martin
Ruth Haskett
Billee Owen
Charma Marquardt

Vote Yes for Ione Community School Bond Levy

To the Editor:

Ione Community School has been a wonderful success! Our school has been rated exceptional by the state; our kids are learning and growing in a positive environment which is responsive to their needs; where support and individual attention is present. Our community has come together to create a school that teaches and develops the skills of learning and prepares our students for college and the work world. With the additional support and help of the Ione Education Foundation, our teachers have found ever new and creative ways to expand the learning environment and provide students with unique learning experiences. Our community has been maintained and blessed as we have shared in providing for our kids.

We have started a good thing! Like any good thing, it will take maintenance and our continued support to keep the ball rolling. One of the gifts of our small school is small class loads and individual attention to student needs. For the past several years we have had combined grades in every class in the grade school. Our attendance has grown, making these classes grow too large. Kids learn best and teachers teach best when each grade has a space of its own. Our goal has always been to return to individually graded classrooms. With the foundation's help, we have been enabled to hire additional teachers to correct this at several levels - but now we have the blessing of having the need for additional space - two additional classrooms.

Every home or business requires continual maintenance of the building to avoid creating really major repairs. Our school is no exception. Another goal of our small school is to be efficient and spend our money in ways that truly place most of the funds in a place that directly impacts the children's learning. Contracting with the ESD has enabled us to keep secondary costs at a minimum and the majority of our funds kept to pay for materials and teachers; the aspects that are directly for kids learning.

We encourage you to vote YES for the Ione Community School Bond Levy. This vote will let us keep growing, and provide funds for building maintenance without taking funds from the learning experience. We have a great thing going! Let's keep it up!

John and Kerry Rietmann
Ione

What is the best decision for the citizens of Morrow County?

To the Editor:

Last spring, I felt Morrow County was fortunate to have two qualified law enforcement officers running for the position of county sheriff, both with the education, experience, and character to do a credible job for the county. While I do not believe the sheriff's office is 'broke' and needs 'fixing', I do believe competition is a healthy thing. But now, I must speak out about campaign tactics and what they tell us.

My term as county commissioner split the terms of Sheriff Denton and Sheriff Matlock, so I worked with and knew both their work. Larry Sample was Under-Sheriff during Denton's administration, so I am familiar with him as well. These men performed that job differently, but I would never say either lacked personal integrity, or professionalism in their performance.

During the course of the current campaign, Mr. Sample's advertising has continually affected a drumbeat of innuendo that Sheriff Matlock lacks personal integrity, professionalism, and passes out political favors. As a county commissioner during the first half of Sheriff Matlock's term I believe these innuendos and insinuations to be baseless. If these charges were based in fact, they should have been brought out into the public record. If not, they say more about the character of his opponent than about Mr. Matlock.

Words have meaning, and they should not be used as convenient weapons without reason. Personally, I would have a hard time voting for a man who is willing to destroy the reputation of an honest and hard-working public servant just to win his job. My question is this, what is the best decision for the citizens of Morrow County?

Ray Grace
Heppner

Troop 691 complete 20 mile hike



Pictured are: Wade Matthew, Jarod Lemmon, Scout Leader Mark Lemmon, Grant Smith, Greg Smith, Ryan Smith, Alex Smith, Greg Smith and Genevieve Smith. Sam and Marie Hornbeck provided a luncheon for the scouts. -Contributed Photo

Recently, Troop 691 hiked 20 miles to complete their Hiking Merit Badge, a required badge for Eagle Scout. The Scouts began at Heppner High School, up Sand Hollow, across Black Horse Canyon and arrived at Lexington.

If you have young man that is interested in joining scouts, contact Dieter Waite at 676-8055.

Be careful who you vote for

Letter to the Editor:

The old saying "be careful what you wish for, you may just get it" equates with "be careful who you vote for!" Regardless of the outcome, a positive change will be no more political campaign advertisements. However it doesn't seem right that unbalanced media reporting continues to try to influence our choices with a deliberate spin on facts.

Vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin has been under attack from day one. Scrutiny includes her dress, use of transportation, executive decisions and family - anything that can cast an unfavorable light on this women. (Her recent clothing expenditures seem minor when compared to Hilary Clinton's custom-made \$6,000 pant suits).

It's said she is lacking qualifications for vice president, yet her position as Alaska governor has required considerable executive skills such as negotiations of the oil pipeline. That type of executive decision is way beyond just voting on measures that come before Congress. Plus, a fresh, non-biased mind is also a step above the "stuck in a rut" thinking of a member of the "good old boys" club. A vice president also has the opportunity to learn and grow in that position, unlike the president-elect who should be fully prepared and must possess the necessary knowledge to immediately take on all this country's issues. The difference is that there's no time for learning on the job as a president, especially if that person lacks military expertise.

The media seems to overlook Obama's association with Rev. Wright or the ACORN organization. To me, past behavior is an indicator of present or future behavior, not unlike "birds of a feather."

With the economy gone south we all realize that funding for all those campaign promises such as socialized medicine and paid college tuition will be difficult to obtain... Right now most people are trying to economize and move forward while hoping that the future will be a little rosier.

Merlyn Robinson
Heppner

Re-elect Ken Matlack for Morrow County Sheriff

To the Editor:

On two different occasions, Ken Matlack has personally left his home at night to check out prowlers at our farm, which is four miles from our home. The other deputies on duty were required to be elsewhere in the county. We think Morrow County should be very grateful for all his dedication to duty.

Ray and Linda Fox
Irrigon

Weed notice procedures outlined

The Morrow County Noxious Weed Advisory Board would like to remind all landowners of their responsibility to control noxious weeds.

Noxious weeds on Morrow County's "A" list are required to be controlled (mowed, landowners enrolled in federal programs such as Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) may receive payment reductions if it is determined that control measures are not being met.

If "A" list noxious weeds are found, and the landowner fails to control them, steps may be taken by the weed supervisor to notify and if needed request a citation be issued in accordance with Oregon State Statute and the Morrow County Weed Ordinance.

These steps include:

-Personally contact landowner via personal vis-

Heppner Garden Club news

The Heppner Garden Club will be meeting at the Senior Center on November 3 at 7 p.m. It will be a workshop on how to tie bows which will be used on the wreaths that will be made and sold in December.

Wreaths, swags and crosses will be made at the fair grounds in December.

it, phone, or mail to make landowner aware of responsibilities.

-Give landowner a time schedule to complete control (2-20 days).

-If landowner fails to control weeds then the district attorney is notified and a citation issued.

-If further steps are needed, the Oregon Department of Agriculture can be asked to quarantine the land in effect which prohibits the landowner from transporting crops or livestock possibly affected by the infested property.

Morrow County Ordinance also requires Weed Management Plans to be filed with the Weed District in order to protect landowners from citations, as long as the plans are being followed.

For more information on weed control requirements or weed identification, contact the weed district office at 541-989-9502.

This is Heppner Garden Club's money-making project. More information will be available in the next few weeks.

The Heppner Garden Club is open to the public.

Hostesses will be Melissa Jo Monaco and Kay Proctor.

Advertise with the Heppner Gazette-Times

Call 676-9228

