

~ 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.

Vote "No" on Measures 66 & 67 Please put our country first

To the Editor:

Five generations of our family have worked at our Tillamook dairy. It's our life and our business. Milk prices are plunging and it's harder than ever to keep our business afloat. We're worried that the new, permanent tax increases legislators passed in June will hurt our farm and the families it supports. Please join me in voting "No" on Measures 66 and 67, which permanently raise business and personal income taxes in the middle of the worst recession since the Great Depression.

Economists estimate these tax increases will cost 70,000 Oregonians their jobs. With entire families out of work, we can't afford taxes that will cost more jobs. I can't vote to send more pink slips to Oregonians.

Legislators say their plan only taxes the rich. They're wrong. We'll all end up paying more for groceries, gas, and other services, and that will impact all Oregonians, especially the poor. Facing higher taxes, small businesses like ours would be forced to lay off workers, reduce wages and benefits, or close their doors.

Worse yet, the higher taxes would be retroactive to January 1, 2009. No money to cover this increase has been withheld from Oregonian's paychecks in all of 2009. Retroactive tax bills will hurt business too.

Despite the bleak economy, Measure 67 would tax businesses up to \$100,000 a year, even if they didn't make a profit. This tax increase will make Oregon's corporate minimum (the tax on the sales of businesses that don't make profits) 20 times higher than New York - the nation's highest. The personal income tax increase also adds to business taxes - 66% of Oregonians who will be impacted by the Measure 66 tax increase are small business owners that report their business income on their personal tax returns.

State government has not tightened its belt like the rest of us. We should not send more money to Salem until the state can get its spending under control. It bothers me that the \$733 million in new taxes will help fund the \$258 million budgeted for state employee salary increases. Instead of pinching pennies like the rest of us, legislators increased overall state spending by \$4.7 billion - 9% higher than the previous budget, and raised taxes and fees by almost \$2 billion.

Public employee unions say the sky will fall if the new taxes do not pass. I'm here to tell you that the sky is already falling on Oregon small businesses like mine. Even President Obama said in an NBC interview this August, "The last thing we want to do is raise taxes during the middle of a recession."

Help me send legislators a message that voters already have rejected job-killing income tax increases twice before. No means no. Please vote "No" on Measures 66 and 67.

Carol Marie Leuthold
Leuthold Dairy Farm
Tillamook

To the editor:

This letter is for all senators and representatives in the US congress, regardless of party affiliation:

I am adamantly opposed to the direction this administration is taking our country, and I will work to see that the people responsible for these outrageous takings of our constitutional rights are voted out of office by any legal means possible. You have brought our God given country to the brink of bankruptcy that we may never recover from, and I believe this is a deliberate power grab by this president and his unelected and unconstitutional czars and appointees, with the consent of many in the congress, in most cases.

We know who you are and we will not give up the fight to have you removed ASAP, our freedom depends on it. I believe that the so called "Health Care" reform bill is nothing more than a government smoke screen to mask the real agenda of this radical president and his cohorts, which is to destroy our constitutional form of government and replace it. Let's be right up front and call it what it really is, communism, which has failed miserably in every country that is or has been under the totalitarian system. We must not let that happen here. Stand up and be heard, citizens. We have too much to lose not to. Our grandchildren and great-grandchildren will thank us for our patriotic efforts.

Please remember that you work for us. Please put our country first.

These are the things I believe we are about to lose if we stay silent on these issues:

- Constitutional rights
- the right to bear arms
- religious freedoms
- freedom to assemble
- the right to own property
- freedom of the press

We are already seeing this in:

- environmental takings of all kinds of property and property rights
- outrageously high taxes
- taxation of anything and everything, including

Medicare benefits

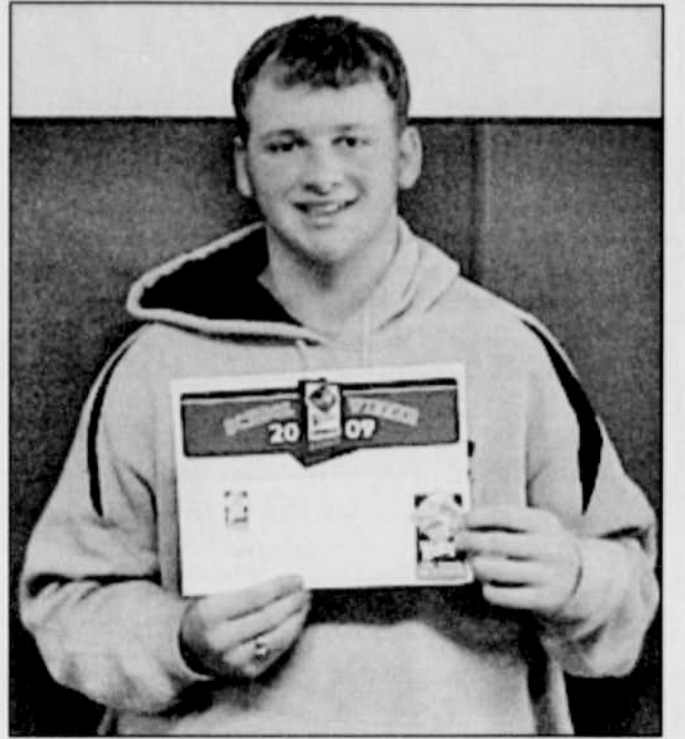
- excessive tax on capital gains
- taxation on small and large business to the point of breaking up business ownership and loss of jobs
- government takeovers of the auto industry
- high taxes causing manufacturing to go to other countries, leaving us without jobs
- excessive union labor demands causing loss of jobs

- no accountability in government spending
- huge fraudulent loss of tax payers' money at all levels of government
- outright lies and cover-ups on all fronts

We need term limits and wholesale clean up of congress.

William E. West
Heppner

Wright receives Wendy's Heisman Award



Lane Wright of Heppner High School was recently named the recipient of the 2009 Wendy's High School Heisman Award. -Contributed Photo

USDA urges voters to participate in county committee elections

Darcy Vial, Executive Director of USDA's Farm Service Agency in Morrow County urges Morrow County farmers, ranchers and other agricultural producers to vote in FSA county committee elections by December 7 the deadline for casting ballots.

"FSA county committees provide producers with the opportunity to help implement federal farm programs in their communities," said Vial. "It is vital that all farmers and ranchers, especially women and minorities, participate in the elections process to ensure the opinions expressed in committee meetings reflect an area's agricultural sector."

Producers must return ballots to their local FSA offices by the close of business on December 7. Newly elected committee members and alternates take office January 1, 2010.

FSA county com-

mittees help administer federal farm programs at the local level. Committee members make decisions on conservation programs; commodity price support loans and payments; disaster assistance payments; and other agricultural issues. County committees consist of three to five elected members who serve three-year terms.

Committees may also have one or more female or minority advisors to further represent the local interests of women and minority farmers and ranchers. Each year, one-third of all committee members are elected across the country. More than 8,000 county committee members serve in more than 2,300 local FSA offices nationwide.

For more information about FSA county committee elections, visit [http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=newsroom\\$subject=landing&topic=ce](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=newsroom$subject=landing&topic=ce).

Red Hat luncheon to be held

A Red Hat no-host luncheon will be held at Sweet Productions on Thursday, December 17, at noon. You do not have to be a member of Red Hats to attend.

Accepting toys through December 19th
For the
Les Schwab toy drive
Toys will be donated to the
Heppner Neighborhood Center!

TOY DRIVE

LADIES' NIGHT!
December 3rd
Marinated Steaks
Cheesy Potatoes
Salad & Rolls
Cooks Tim & Beth Dickenson

HEPPNER ELKS 358
676-9181 "Where Friends Meet" 142 North Main

Real Estate Sealed Bid Auction
The Elks Scholarship Committee will auction the Clarence Buchanan Home by Silent Auction.
1 Bedroom, 1 bath house with a large shop 1/2 concrete floor enclosed and 1/2 open bay gravel located at 270 East St. in Lexington, OR. Approx 800 sq ft with partial basement. Minimum reserve bid is \$8,000 with option to accept any bid. Property being sold "AS IS"
All inquiries and bids can be mailed or dropped off to:
Tim Dickenson
Dickenson Chiropractic Clinic
Heppner Elks Scholarship Chairman
P.O. Box 1002
Heppner, OR 97836
Office: 541-676-8990
Cell: 541-980-8201
dickensonchiro@centurytel.net

Desert Rats Classic Car club shares the Christmas spirit



The Desert Rats Classic Car Club shared their Christmas spirit by donating to the Boardman community this holiday season. Club President, George Price presented \$100 checks to Banner Bank for their Giving Tree, the Bank of Eastern Oregon for their Giving Tree, and the Columbia River Harvesters food bank. Club members voted unanimously to distribute the funds to these worthy causes as a way of supporting the community during the holiday season.

The Desert Rats Classic Car Club is a Boardman non-profit organization whose purpose is to promote interest in the sport of Classic Cars, Street Rodding, and Muscle Cars, with an emphasis on family and community service. The Club membership is made up of Classic Car enthusiasts who own pre-1975, American made cars or trucks. They meet the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. Anyone interested in membership can contact George Price at 481-3217.



Top Left Photo: Bank of Eastern Oregon - Branch Manger Julie Gisi with Car Club Pres. George Price; Top Right Photo: Banner Bank - Branch Manager Kate Close with Car Club Pres. George Price; Bottom Photo: Columbia River Harvesters - Center Manager Julia Cardenas with Car Club Pres. George Price -Contributed Photos

Hoops of Hope shoot to be held during Ione Basketball Bonanza

During the Ione Basketball Bonanza on December 4th and 5th, the Ione Girls Basketball team will be hosting a Hoops of Hope 3-point shoot as part of Brianna Peterson's, Tyree Svetich's, Sarah Stillman's and Stefanie Archer's senior projects.

Hoops of Hope is a non-profit organization that raises money for AIDS-impaired children in Zambia. The proceeds from

this year's events will go towards purchasing school supplies for children in a community where education used to be non-existent. The shoot will take place in the Ione School's gymnasiums during the half-times of the basketball games.

In January, the team will be hosting a "Full Court Press Event" where they have pledged to shoot 6,000 free throws. Until

that date the team will be collecting donations. The proceeds from both the hoop shoot and the January event will go to Hoops of Hope. For any questions or information on donating to the cause, contact Brianna Peterson at (541) 422-7304, or Sarah Stillman at (541) 989-8406, or check out the team's donation website at www.firstgiving.com/ionebasketballteam.