

## An Oregon Perspective: Bipartisan Plans for Job Creation

**By Senator Jeff Merkley**  
The unemployment rate in Oregon has been in double digits for the past year, but it seems as though many politicians in the nation's capital are focused on creating frustration and gridlock instead of new jobs.

Bipartisanship isn't completely dead, though. Recently, I joined with members of both parties, including Republican Senators Richard Lugar of Indiana and Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, to introduce a bill that will both create jobs and lower monthly energy bills for families and businesses.

It's called the Rural Energy Savings Program and it works like this: rural electric co-ops like the Columbia Basin Electric Co-op in Heppner will administer low-cost loans to help families and business owners afford the up-front costs of energy efficient renovations. The families and business owners will see their energy bills go down, and can pay off the loan out of these savings. In fact, they can pay it back with a charge on their electric bill, so they don't even have to pay an additional bill.

The construction and manufacturing sectors

have suffered major job losses during the recession. This program will put people back to work installing and manufacturing energy efficient materials like insulation, windows, roofing, and heating and air conditioning units. The vast majority of these products are made in the U.S., and many of them are made in Oregon, like the insulation products made at Owens Corning in Portland, the efficient lighting made at Energy Wise Lighting in the Eugene area, or the windows made at JELD-WEN in Klamath Falls.

I've been working to develop similar energy efficiency programs called "Home Star" and "Building Star" that will be put into action at the local level to offer rebates and low-cost financing options to home and business owners, whether or not they live in areas that are served by electric co-ops.

The only way out of this recession will be through hard work and co-operation, and the support for this program that I've seen from both Democrats and Republicans makes me confident that we can put Americans back to work and move our economy forward.

## HHS class of '65 starts Facebook page

Members of the Heppner High School class of 1965 have started a Facebook page. Currently the page class administrators are: Phyllis Nelson Hyder (1964), Douglas Anderson and Dale Van Blokland (1965), Peggy Snyder O'Donnell (1967), and Bonnie Lee Kessel Van Atta (1968).

At this point, 390 graduates have become "friends" of the "Heppner High School (HHS) page. States represented by the graduates include: Oregon, Washington, California, Maine, Montana, Nevada, Indiana, Texas, Florida, Idaho, Arizona and Alaska. Douglas Anderson lives and works in Egypt.

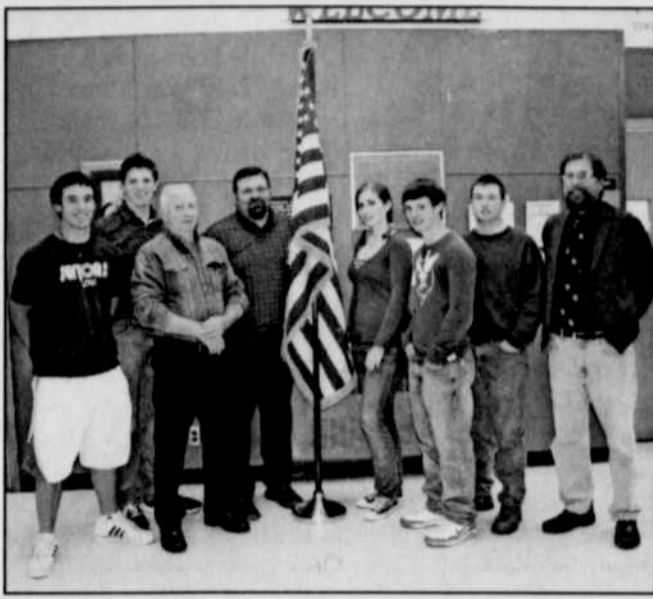
## Red Hats to meet May 20

The Red Hat's May 20 meeting will be held at noon at the Heppner Public Library.

The program will be a Smithsonian Inter-active Civil War Art presentation. A light lunch and beverage will be provided.

You do not have to be a member of Red Hats to attend. This presentation is open to the general public.

## HHS gifted with portable American flag



Pictured left to right are Jordan Hatfield, Zech Hintz, Sam Hornbeck, Daye Stone, Ashley Wolff, Devin Robinson, Cory Miller, and John Flaherty. -Contributed Photo

### By Zechariah Hintz

Heppner High School was honored last Thursday when Sam Hornbeck and Cory Miller from the Willow Creek Tea Party Patriots gifted the school with a portable American flag.

Standing at 10 feet in height, this flag bears our country's history in its stripes and stars. In history classes ranging from world history, which explains the beginning of our country, to AP Government, which breaks down our political system and explains how this country runs, teacher John Flaherty has taught us about this great land and what we should do to participate in helping inspire the leaders of America.

Tea Party Patriots are encouraging America's youth to get more involved in participating and learning about our government and history. This organization has held forums and informational discussions to give the public an opportunity to understand the way that certain laws work and what candidates want to strive for if they are elected.

We, the students of Heppner High School, appreciate this gift from the Willow Creek Tea Party Patriots. This flag is a magnificent addition to our school, and we really do appreciate the effort put forth by this organization to keep the youth in our schools informed of the issues that are happening in America.

The Willow Creek

## ~ 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.

## Support for Ballot Measures #30-83 and 30-84

Letter to the Editor:

I am Morrow County Sheriff Ken Matlack. I am encouraging all voters in Umatilla and Morrow County to support and fund the Umatilla/Morrow Radio and Data District that provides emergency and radio services to police, fire and emergency responders to both our counties. Sixteen agencies and three dispatch centers depend on these services each and every day for the ability to communicate with each other and respond to emergencies.

I will remember the days in Umatilla and Morrow County when we couldn't communicate with each other when responding to emergencies or trying to direct fire fighters to a scene forgetting instructions from ambulance service personnel for people that were injured. In some locations, you couldn't even contact your dispatch center. It made the job much more difficult and dangerous and the public serve was put more at risk.

We have the opportunity to take over a multi-million radio system but have to find a way to manage and fund it. We believe we have the most economical way to manage it with a five-member board and to pay for it with a .17 cent per 1,000 tax rate. That's \$17 for a \$100,000 home. None of the agencies can do this alone. We need help of both counties to make this happen.

Please support Ballot Measures #30-83 and 30-84. We can't afford to go back to the way it was. Your life may depend upon it.

Ken Matlack  
Morrow County Sheriff

## Celebrate Heppner Days to be held June 11-12

The annual Celebrate Heppner Days will be held June 11 and 12.

### Friday, June 11

Get ready to "Celebrate Heppner" with fun activities for all ages on Friday, June 11, starting with children's activities at 10 a.m. in City Park. The day will be filled with a sidewalk sale by downtown merchants (9 a.m. - 4 p.m.); special treats/promotions offered by our local merchants; as well as all kinds of games and activities. A "Welly Toss" competition between businesses, as well as individuals, is also being organized.

Brady Goss will be providing the Friday evening's entertainment. Main Street will be closed off from Willow to May

for an evening of fun, food and entertainment. The evening event will begin at 5:30 p.m. with Bank of Eastern Oregon sponsoring a barbecue. Bucknum's will be having a beer garden set up. Murray's will be leaving their store open to serve beverages through the evening activities.

### Saturday, June 12

The Drama/Comedy Dessert Theatre will begin at 7 p.m. at the Elks Lodge. This year's play, written by Doris Brosnan and Sharon Harrison, will give highlights from the 20 year history of the Palace Hotel. The cost will be \$10 a ticket. Tickets will be going on sale June 1.

For more information contact the chamber at 541-676-5536.

## Harrison honored for Masonic Lodge membership



Former resident David Harrison of Vancouver, WA was recently honored at Temple Masonic Lodge 42 in Cheney, WA for 60 years of membership. He was active in Heppner Lodge No 69 and was junior warden in 1977 when working on the planning committee for the Lodge's 100th celebration. -Contributed Photo

## Morrow SWCD meeting to be held

The Morrow SWCD Board will hold a Weed/Regular meeting on Tuesday, May 11, 6 p.m. at the Ag Service Center in Heppner. Agenda items include minutes of the April meeting, treasurer's report, manager report, 2010-2011 budget update, written staff report, partner agency reports.

Meetings of the Morrow SWCD are open to the public. The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. A request for an interpreter for the hearing impaired or for other accommodations for persons with disabilities should be made at least 48 hours before the meeting to Janet Greenup, 541-676-5452 extension 109.

## Neighborhood Center to hold rummage sale

The Neighborhood Center of South Morrow County will be holding a rummage sale in May. All clean and usable donations are accepted. Donations are accepted Monday through Thursday.

The board members are: Judy Cowett, president; Dean Antonucci, vice president; Glennave Ariaga, secretary-treasurer; and Sherron Woodside, financial advisor. Directors are Faye Seitz, Martha Munkers, Daniel Picard, Norman Lee, Ken Grieb, Jonathan Enz, and Arletha

Brannon. Janice Skaggs is the coordinator.

The center recently had their parking lot paved. That project was made possible by donations from Wildhorse and county discretionary funds.

The Neighborhood Center of South Morrow County helps with providing for utilities, rent, medical, and fuel for out-of-town medical appointments.

The Neighborhood Center can be reached at 541-676-5024. The center's emergency number is 541-676-5459.

## Local Shrine football players honored



The Shrine football players and alternates were honored at a Shrine dinner held in Ione. The annual Shrine game will be held in Baker City July 31. Pictured are: Archie Ball, Coach Greg Grant, alternate Mark McCabe, player Bryan Holand, alternate Eric Jepsen, Merlin Hughes and Coach Dennis Stefani. -Photo by Sandy Matthews

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