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HEPPNER

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# Gazette Times

VOL. 131 N.O. 41 10 Pages Wednesday, October 17, 2012 Morrow County, Heppner, Oregon

## City mayor, councilor spots up for grabs

By Andrea Di Salvo  
Heppner residents will see several names in the running for Heppner City Council and Heppner City Mayor during this election. The Gazette-Times did a little digging to find out more about these candidates.

Joe Perry is running for the two-year Heppner Mayor term, previously held by Les Paustian. Perry is running uncontested.

Perry, 61, was born in Portland, OR but lived all his life in Washington. He moved to Heppner a little more than two years ago to work for the Bank of Eastern Oregon as a commercial loan officer. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics and a master's degree in agricultural economics from Washington State University. Prior government-related experience includes being a school board member in White Salmon, WA and a member of the Morrow County Health District Board.

A widower, Perry has no family in the area, but has four children and 17 grandchildren in various states.

Perry says he believes Heppner's biggest challenge, like most large and small cities, is providing the services that are needed on a limited budget.

"We need to look at the entire city budget to see if there are places that we can save money and still provide the necessary services. Another challenge is to keep young people in Heppner by providing jobs and affordable housing so that our schools and community can continue to grow and prosper," says Perry.

Four of the six city councilor positions are open; all are four-year terms. Council members Judy Buschke and Joann Burleson remain on the council.

Skip Matthews is running for City Councilor, Position #1. The position was previously held by Cindi Doherty; Matthews is running uncontested.

Matthews, 56, is originally from the Willamette Valley but came to Eastern Oregon in 1979. He has made his home in Heppner

since 1986. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in agriculture and has eight years previous city council experience, as well as several years with the Willow Creek Park District.

He and his wife, Sandy, have two adult children, Whitney and Donald.

Matthews says he believes the greatest challenge facing Heppner is maintaining a viable city.

"I think that the city has done a remarkable job of maintaining and even upgrading the city's infrastructure and general livability in the last couple decades. I hope to be able to be a part of that continued success," says Matthews, adding that there are several large projects coming up for the city. "But nice streets and sidewalks don't matter much if nobody is here to enjoy them. There are vacant storefronts on Main Street and possibly more to come. I hope to be able to

lend some energy and ideas for the continued success of our existing businesses and help in whatever way I can to recruit new business." —See HEPPNER CITY POSITIONS/PAGE SIX



Joe Perry



Skip Matthews

## General ballots go out Friday

In-state ballots for the November general election will be mailed Oct. 19-23. Remember, ballots are not forwarded.

Those who don't receive ballots but believe they should have should contact the Morrow County Clerk's office at 541-676-5604. Nov. 1 is the last day replacement ballots will be mailed.

As a reminder, Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 6. All ballots are due by 8 p.m. that day. Ballots must be received, not simply postmarked, on that day. For voter convenience, 24-hour drop boxes are located throughout the county. Locations are as follows:

**Heppner:** Courthouse parking lot (24 hours) or the Morrow County Clerk's Office, Room 102 inside the courthouse. Open 8 a.m. to noon and 1-5 p.m., M-F and Election Day (Nov. 6) from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m.

**Lexington:** 365 West Hwy 74 (Public Works Parking lot). Turn off Hwy. 74 onto Tom Street and left into the public works parking lot. Open 24 hours.

**Ione:** Spring St. (in front of the turn to 3rd Street). Open 24 hours.

**Boardman:** NW Boardman Ave. (24 hours).

**Irrigon:** 205 NE 3rd St. (Irrigon Annex). Open 24 hours.



Drop boxes like this one are available for 24-hour ballot drops.

Election results will be certified by Dec. 6, 2012.

## Tribal hunters allowed to keep 10 deer

Tribe members to be cited for hunting practices, ODFW agent says



The MCSO responded to a report of possible illegal hunting and found 10 deer in the back of a pickup outside Heppner Saturday. The tribal hunters were allowed to keep the legally-tagged deer, but charges are pending for some of their hunting practices. —Contributed photo

By Andrea Di Salvo  
Several regional tribal members will be cited for their taking of deer in South Morrow County.

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office received a report from an Oregon State Police trooper who said he had spotted several tribal members with 10 deer in the back of a pickup last Saturday evening, Oct. 13.

The MCSO referred the Gazette-Times to the OSP for information; the OSP trooper involved could not be reached for comment. According to Steve Cherry, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife district wildlife biologist in Heppner,

the trooper, who was off duty at the time, followed the pickup from Lexington to Heppner while waiting for MCSO deputies to intercept. In the meantime, he saw one individual shoot a doe from the window of the pickup from Highway 74; the doe was on private property.

Cherry said that when an MCSO deputy pulled the pickup over on the outskirts of Heppner, they discovered there were four individuals in the vehicle, all of whom were tribal members from the Warm Springs Indian Reservation. All had valid Warm Springs-issued doe

and buck tags. Tribal hunters are allowed to be issued more than one tag, Cherry said; one individual had seven valid doe tags. He was uncertain whether the hunters had buck tags or had taken any bucks, but he did add that it was possible, and legal, since the ODFW had extended buck season an extra three days for tribal members.

The hunters were allowed to keep the deer since all their tags were valid. However, Cherry said citations are pending for shooting from the roadway and trespassing.

## Candidates speak out at forum

By David Sykes  
The Heppner Chamber of Commerce held a candidates' forum last Thursday with senate, commissioner and judge candidates speaking to the crowd and answering questions.

### Umatilla-Morrow County Circuit Court Judge

Jon Lieuallen is running for Umatilla-Morrow County Circuit Court Judge against incumbent Lynn Hampton, and he said he would seek to improve efficiency in the courtroom and try to work out arguments between attorneys during pretrial. He would like to see jury trials run more efficiently.

Hampton said the reason the legal system takes so long is that civil trials take a back seat to criminal trials.

"Criminal trials must be done in 60 days, so we do those before civil," she said.

She would like to restore court reporters to the courtroom to do work now done by assistants. Hampton would also like to see family law specialists returned to the courtroom to improve efficiency. Hampton also said her philosophy of the law is one of judicial restraint. She said she is a supporter of the second amendment of the right to bear arms.

Hampton says judges should judge on the facts and not be swayed by emotion.

Lieuallen agreed that judges need to be fair in

running their courtrooms and that the Constitution is the bedrock of all our laws, although he said at the circuit court level they rarely deal with constitutional issues and those are usually dealt with on the appellate level.

### Morrow County Commissioner

Running for county commissioner is Leann Rea of Heppner. She cited her experience on the planning commission and other public service. Rea pointed out her work in the Oregon consortium, training people for jobs, and also her membership on the enterprise zone committee, bringing new businesses to Morrow County.

She said there are currently seven businesses going through the enterprise zone process, which will add jobs to Morrow County.

Cody High, also of Heppner, said he thinks the county is going into a tailspin and "We need to examine where our money is going." He said people are working at the Port of Morrow in the north end of the county but things are not going as

well here in south county. He said his motto is "Let's fund what we need not what we want." He said we need to plan for the future and our children's future.



Leann Rea



Jon Lieuallen



Cody High

"Let's get our county back to where it needs to be," he told the audience.

High said the biggest challenge facing the county is the lack of revenue. "We need to make sure our needs are being taken care of instead of our wants."

Rea said money coming into the enterprise zone from new businesses will be additional revenue but will not be going through the county budget process, but will instead be treated more like the needs and issues money from Finley Buttes tippage fees was handled, with groups making requests to the committee for funding.

Rea also said she has no problem with cutting services at the county level if needed but said she wasn't sure what those services would be.

"I would not cut building maintenance or funding for conferences and training sessions."

High said he would propose trimming the parks budget and convert a lot of the county's paperwork to wireless to save money. He said he would not cut the essentials like roads, police and health care, but wondered why the county needs to be funding the neighborhood centers in both the north and south ends at the level we are.

"The county needs new ideas," he told the crowd. "We need to take the dollars (from) where they are not

—See CANDIDATES' FORUM/PAGE THREE

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