

HEPPNER

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Smith attends Chamber candidates forum

Endorses Buehler for Governor



Oregon State Representative Greg Smith addressed the Heppner Chamber of Commerce at its candidates forum/luncheon last Thursday. -Photo by David Sykes.

By David Sykes

"I am the longest serving member of the Oregon Legislature. And that is thanks to you," Oregon Representative Greg Smith told a full house at the Heppner Chamber of Commerce candidate forum/luncheon last Thursday. And that length of time coupled with Smith's hard work in Salem and for his district has garnered him an impressive list of committee appointments. Smith attended the candidate's forum even though he is running unopposed for his position.

Smith made several endorsements at the meeting, including:

Ballot measure 102 a constitutional amendment that allows local bonds for financing affordable housing with nongovernmental entities. "This would be good move for communities," he said when endorsing passage.

Measure 103 prohibits taxes/fees based on trans-

actions for "groceries." The measure is an amendment to the Oregon Constitution. Smith said he is supporting the measure.

Measure 104 also a constitutional amendment that expands (beyond taxes) application of requirement that three-fifths legislative majority approve bills raising revenue. "I am a yes on this," he said.

Measure 105 repeals law limiting use of state/local law enforcement resources to enforce federal immigration laws. Smith said he believes each of us, including migrants, are God's children, but he also believes in the rule of law. He said eastern Oregon is dependent on migrant labor for its economy, but that immigration has to be legal. "I'm for law and order," he said on endorsing a yes vote on this measure.

Measure 106 prohibits spending "public funds" (defined) directly/indirectly for "abortion" (defined);

exceptions; reduces abortion access. "I am a pro-life person and proud of it," Smith said. He said he was opposed to using public money for abortion. "I support passage of this measure," he said.

On the governor's race Smith says he is endorsing fellow Republican Knute Buehler over Democrat Kate Brown. "Kate Brown is a good person and I have gotten along with her, but it is time for a change and Knute will do that," he said.

Smith's committee appointments for coming session are:

House Revenue Committee, Co-Vice Chair - Joint Ways and Means Committee, Co-Vice Chair - Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on General Government, Co-Chair - Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction - Joint Committee on Student Success, Co-Vice Chair - Joint Emergency Board - House GOP Caucus, Budget Chair.

Deer hunters kill dairy cow



Maybe a deer hunter thought they saw horns or someone just wanted target practice. Either way, one of JVB Dairy's cows got shot and killed recently. Dairy owner John VandenBrink said one of his hands found the dead cow last week and when they turned it over they found the bullet holes. "They just went and shot it, for no reason," VandenBrink said. "It was probably deer hunters." The large dairy is located on Morter Lane outside of Ione.

G-T Trophy Corner

The Heppner Gazette-Times wants to see pictures of your trophy animals from this hunting season. Stop by to have your picture taken, drop off photos, mail them to PO Box 337 in Heppner, email them to editor@rapidsolve.net or text cell phone photos to 541-980-6674.



DEADLINE: MONDAYS AT 5PM



Cody Fletcher shot his buck in the Ukiah District. -Contributed photo

Osmin takes first in series



Left: Kael Osmin shows his bike skills at the Bike Pit. Above: Kael Osmin, shown with his trophy. -Photos by Staci Osmin.

Kael Osmin, 16, of Heppner took first place in his division at the Bike Pit-OHV track in Pilot Rock last weekend. Kael has been racing his bike in the races at the track for a couple of years in the beginners class and has only lost one race.

Each race day consists of two races with approxi-

mately four to six riders in the race. There are classes for beginners, intermediates and pro racers. Osmin has participated in every race held this season and placed third in the last race of the year.

According to a source, other riders who have raced this year at the track from

the Heppner area are Carson Brosnan, Hunter Greenup, Kegan Steagall and Kenneth Troxell.

The bike pit opened about 12 years ago and provides a location where riders can ride at no charge. The non-profit bike pit is open to the public during most daylight hours.

Drought loans now available to Morrow County farm dependent businesses

By David Sykes

Small non-farm businesses impacted by the recent drought hurting Morrow County ranchers and farmers, are now eligible to apply for low-interest federal disaster loans from the Small Business Administration, SBA, it's been announced.

According to a release provided to the Heppner Gazette by Morrow County Commissioner Melissa Lindsay, loans up to \$2 million are now available for small non-farm businesses and most private nonprofit organizations that have suffered losses due to decreased business with the farmers and ranchers hurt by the drought which started July 24, 2018. The loans

can be used to "help meet financial obligations and operating expenses which could have been met had the disaster not occurred."

"Eligibility for these loans is based on the financial impact of the disaster only and not on any actual property damage. These loans have an interest rate of 3.61 percent for businesses and 2.5 percent for private nonprofit organizations, a maximum term of 30 years and are available to small businesses and most private nonprofits without the financial ability to offset the adverse impact without hardship," the release said.

Businesses primarily engaged in farming or ranching are not eligible

for SBA disaster assistance. Agricultural enterprises should contact the Farm Services Agency about the U.S. Department of Agriculture assistance made available by the secretary's declaration. However, nurseries are eligible for SBA disaster assistance in drought disasters.

Applicants may apply online, receive additional disaster assistance information and download applications at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>. Applicants may also call SBA's customer service center at 800-659-2955 or email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov for more information on SBA disaster assistance.

Ballots must be received by Nov. 6

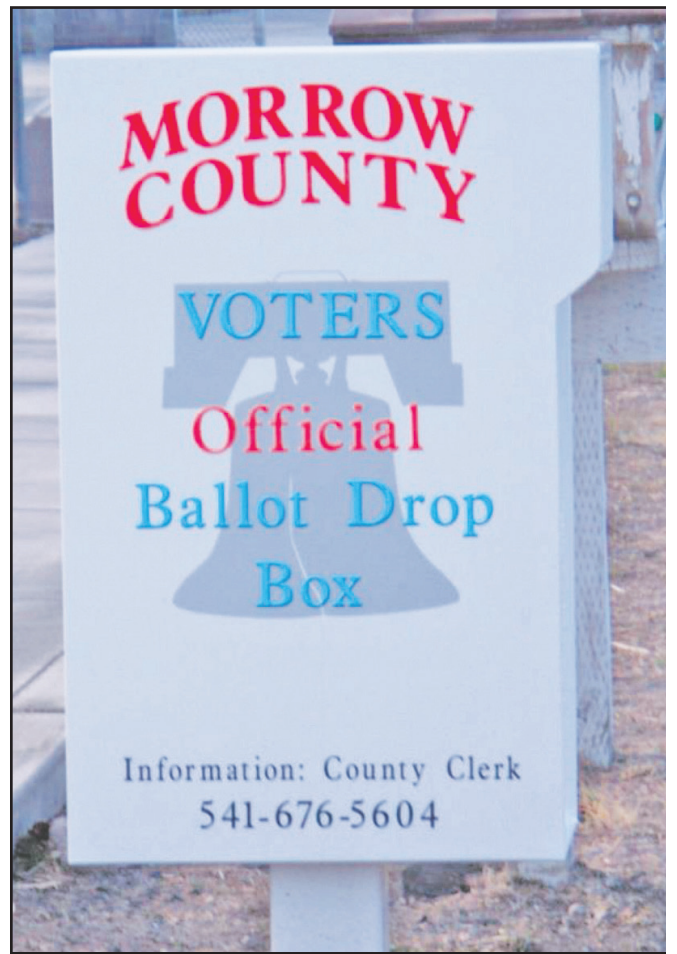
Completed ballots for the November 6 election must be received by 8 p.m. on election day. Postmarks do not count.

Ballots may be dropped in Heppner 24 hours a day at the drop box in the Bartholomew building parking lot. Ballots may also be dropped in the county clerk's office, room 102, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5 p.m.

The Lexington ballot drop box is located in the public works parking lot at 365 W Hwy 74.

In Ione, the drop box is located on Spring Street, in front of the turn onto Third Street.

Outside drop boxes are currently open 24 hours, but all drop boxes will close at 8 p.m. on election day. Ballot drop boxes are also available in Boardman and Irrigon.



Ballot drop sites are available throughout the county. Boxes can be found in Heppner, Lexington, Ione, Boardman and Irrigon.

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