



# the HEPPNER GAZETTE TIMES

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## Candidate for governor visits Heppner



Republican candidate for governor, Kerry McQuisten, visited Heppner Friday.

Republican candidate for governor, Kerry McQuisten, visited Heppner on the campaign trail last Friday. The stop was part of a two-day "pop-up" tour

of Morrow and Gilliam counties.

"It's personally important to me to visit every county in Oregon as many times as I can during this race," says McQuisten. "Rural Oregon counties get left out of the equation all too often, and that attitude among elected officials and candidates has helped drive a wedge between eastern and western Oregon. I want people to know they would be represented if I'm elected Governor."

McQuisten is a seventh generation Oregonian who currently serves as mayor of Baker City. She started her own publishing company in 2007, and has owned and operated it ever since, though she was raised on a cattle ranch. This is her first time running for a major office. "We don't need another politician in the

Governor's seat," she says. "Too many people want to be governor for reasons of ego. Those are exactly the candidates who should not be in that office. I simply want Oregon back, and know I have the ability to reverse the damage done to our state, particularly over the last two years. We can't stand four or eight more years of overreach."

McQuisten first hit the public stage when she authored Baker City's Resolution 3881, dubbed "The Common Sense Sanctuary" by media, earlier this year. In reality, the resolution was a declaration of mental health, economic and crime crisis not due to COVID, but to Kate Brown's response to it. That stand rolled across Oregon as other counties and cities adopted similar resolutions. After multiple appearances

on FOX and several Portland-based news shows, she received a groundswell of encouragement to run for governor.

"I'm hearing from voters in all political parties, including lifelong Democrats. Oregonians are done watching their state be destroyed."

She points out that when people say their voices don't count in rural areas, it simply isn't true. "If voters get genuinely excited about a conservative candidate from eastern Oregon, and turn in their ballots, the numbers are there for us to win this."

If elected, McQuisten would be the first Republican to hold the office in nearly 40 years, the first female Republican governor ever, and the first governor from eastern Oregon since the 1950s.



McQuisten (center) visited with JoAnna Lamb (left) and Kim Cutsforth (right).



Pictured (L-R): Cherrie Clark, Sheena Shank, McQuisten and Darlene Klock.

## Council hears plan to tackle south county housing shortage

'Major barrier to new housing is a lack of infrastructure,' says county planner Mabbott

By David Sykes

A housing shortage affecting all south Morrow County could be getting some help soon, county planner Tamra Mabbott told the Heppner city council Monday night.

Anyone who has looked for a rental or tried to buy a home in Heppner, Lexington or Ione recently, already knows of the persistent shortage, and the problem doesn't seem to be going away. Mabbott told the council, however, that help is on the way.

Mabbott said it's common knowledge to those already working on the housing problem, that the number one obstacle to developing new housing is infrastructure. Streets, sidewalks, gutters, water and sewer lines as well as water sources and sewer facilities are needed before homes can be built in the communities. "The cities have worked creatively and collaboratively over the past 20 plus years to increase housing choices," she said. "A portion of the new housing has been pri-



Tamra Mabbott, county planner

imate sector funding. Many of the new housing developments over the past 20 years has been the result of a public-private partnership between the Willow Creek Valley Economic Development Group (WCVEDG) and the Ione Community Agri-Business Organization (ICABO). While that formula has produced some new housing, the parties realize that the major barrier to new housing is a lack of infrastructure. Collectively these private and public groups have accomplished a lot, however, the design and construction of infrastructure has resulted in an

impasse for new housing development," Mabbott said. "Even these very remarkable efforts with bright and resourceful people, cannot overcome the financial burden of building and expanding new infrastructure."

She explained the new effort she's working on seeks to retain a planning and financial consulting firm to find money for infrastructure and give the cities places where new homes can be built. She said the program also wants local people to help with the effort to find funds for infrastructure in the cities. In addition to city manager Kraig Cutsforth who will serve on the committee, Mabbott said she is looking for individuals willing to put in some volunteer time on the effort. She said people are needed who would be helpful on a technical advisory committee, and she was especially encouraging "extra outreach to communities that might not be historically represented. So, persons of color, low income and very low-in-

come folks especially," she told the council. "It is sometimes a lot more difficult to get them to the table to help us talk about housing. All income levels are needed," she said, "but if you think about persons who traditionally might be involved with this, we need them, but we also need folks that might not traditionally be at the table to be part of this project," Mabbott said of the volunteers needed. She said the volunteer work would be for a one-year commitment, and the group would hold an informational meeting in the next couple of weeks.

Heppner city councilmember and local Chamber of Commerce and WCVEDG Executive Director JoAnna Lamb told the council she has already been working on housing issues. Lamb said she is involved with four different groups working on infrastructure. "We can't do anything until that is ad-

## Lexington street gets new pavement



Arcade Street in Lexington recently received new pavement. Morrow County Public Works Road Department spent several days completing the work last week. The Town of Lexington repaves streets every year with the use of grant funds. -Contributed photos.



McQuisten stopped off at Peterson's Jewelry for a visit with Randall Peterson. -Contributed photos.

dressed," Lamb said, adding she thought Heppner was behind in those efforts and needs to catch up to where other cities are in obtaining studies and funding. As an example, WCVEDG recently purchased land above Rock Street for use as a new subdivision. The area has been laid out with 13 lots for development, however the project is waiting for money to develop the infrastructure. There has already been heavy public interest in any new building lots that may become available there once water, sewer and streets are put in, however nothing can move forward until infrastructure funding is found.

In other business at Monday's meeting the council awarded a contract to Granite construction for

\$33,000 for work on Thomson Square. The new food court is being developed on Main Street next to the post office, and already has a new information booth, restroom and drinking fountains, as well as a concrete pad poured near the front. It will soon get asphalt poured on the remainder of the property farther back from the street.

DEADLINE:  
MONDAYS  
AT 5PM

### ~ G-T Trophy Corner ~

The Heppner Gazette Times would like to see pictures of your trophy animals from this hunting season. Please send a photo along with your name, age, town you live in, location of the hunt and a description of the animal to editor@rapidsolve.net, upload to Heppner.net or text to 541-980-6674.

Jim Kirkpatrick, 66, Heppner, harvested this ram in the Big-horn Mountains of Alberta on September 18, 2021.



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