

The Official Newspaper  
of the City of Heppner and the County of Morrow

**Heppner**  
**GAZETTE-TIMES**  
U.S.P.S. 240-420

Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper

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David Sykes.....Publisher  
Bobbi Gordon.....Editor  
Giselle Moses.....Advertising

All News and Advertising Deadline is Monday at 5 p.m.

For Advertising: advertising deadline is Monday at 5 p.m. Cost for a display ad is \$5.25 per column inch. Cost for classified ad is 50¢ per word. Cost for Card of Thanks is \$10 up to 100 words. Cost for a classified display ad is \$6.05 per column inch.

For Public/Legal Notices: public/legal notices deadline is Monday at 5 p.m. Dates for publication must be specified. Affidavits must be requested at the time of submission. Affidavits require three weeks to process after last date of publication (a sooner return date must be specified if required).

For Obituaries: Obituaries are published in the Heppner GT at no charge and are edited to meet news guidelines. Families wishing to include information not included in the guidelines or who wish to have the obituary written in a certain way must purchase advertising space for the obituary.

For Letters to the Editor: Letters to the Editor MUST be signed by the author. The Heppner GT will not publish unsigned letters. All letters MUST include the author's address and phone number for use by the GT office. The GT reserves the right to edit letters. 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.

~ 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. Email to editor@rapidsolve.net or upload to Heppner.net.

**The stewardship of our forefathers**

To the Editor:

Dick Wilkinson was born in a tent alongside of Willow Creek on land that he would develop into one of the finest cattle operations in Oregon. He began his education in a one room schoolhouse at the mouth of Skinner Creek, the watershed for Summerfield, the crown jewel of the Wilkinson Ranch. In 1994 Dick was honored as the first "Landowner of the year" in Oregon in recognition of his outstanding contribution to Fish and Wildlife Resources in Oregon. While all the other landowners of the foothills of the Blue Mountains had locked their lands to the public and locals, at great profit for fee hunting, Dick Wilkinson provided Summerfield, the finest elk hunting property in the Heppner Unit, open to the public.

Before legislation was introduced to establish fee hunting and lock up previously open to hunt private land in 1990, the foothills of the Heppner unit provided the best deer hunting resource in Oregon. Hunting and recreation dollars flooded into Heppner and Morrow County for half a century. During that time recreation, hunting and logging helped Heppner support five gas stations, five grocery stores and three new car dealerships. Shirley Rugg, Jack Glavey, Dick Wilkinson and other land owners worked cooperatively with the ODFW to provide hunting, fishing and recreational opportunities that pumped millions of dollars into the county coffers. The Blue Mountains provided cover and sanctuary for elk, deer and unlimited game and habitat under the stewardship of beloved ODFW biologist Glen Ward.

Today Glen Ward and Dick Wilkinson would not recognize the present state of the Blue Mountains, nor would they recognize Summerfield now locked

down for fee hunting. Today the elk, the public's hunting greatest resource, are managed for the benefit of the fee hunting industry. In like manner the ODFW manages the wolves and cougars to benefit the environmental/animal rights industry.

The buffalo were legally slaughtered, a practice we now condemn. Unlimited over the counter cow tags and LOP fee hunting tags allow our elk to be legally slaughtered as well (often with rifle silencers so they will not run). If Dick Wilkinson called fee hunting unethical, how would he respond to slaughtering elk like sitting ducks? The Left Coast of the Cascades control the ODFW which continues to over-sell big game tags for elk and deer that mostly no longer inhabit the public hunting lands. Hunts are sold in our National Forest and Columbia Basin beginning in the summer and some do not end until the end of March when a cow elk is close to birthing. Four wheelers, side by sides, shed hunters, mushroom hunters, archery hunters (some with permanent tree stands), and special tag hunts for virtually everything, including trophy defenseless bucks during the rut, now define ODFW money hungry game management, leaving precious little sanctuary for elk or deer. The big game are leaving the National Forest for the solitude of the private fee hunting property. When the wolves, cougars, and bears take the last of the elk and deer out of the mountain habitat, cattle will be next. When the cattle are forced out of the mountains, the cougars and wolves will move out of the mountains as well. When the fee hunters shoot all the elk (and that is the ODFW plan) the cattle on the fee hunting property will be next in line for the wolves, cats and bears.

If I was appointed the emperor of the new state of Eastern Oregon, called Ward Wilkinson, I would initiate a novel plan. I would require legislation to manage our National Forest to restore habitat

sanctuary for our elk and deer: a) severely limiting the number of rifle, muzzle loader and archery hunts, number of tags sold, and only restoring big game tags when the elk and deer herds are restored (a heritage for our children), b) limit the number of cougars (with government hunters) and eliminate cross bred wolves that never inhabited our National Forests, c) restore select cut logging practices that enhance the forest habitat, d) close the forest from Dec. 1 to March 30 for winter sports only, e) limit land owner preference tags, f) prohibit selling LOP tags, g) tax fee hunting property as recreational (as it should have been from the get go) and designate the funds for Forest Restoration, h) raise the price of over the counter cow tags to \$1,000

with 90% allocated to a local Forest Restoration. This board would have the funding and authority to ensure all stakeholders honored the plan to restore our National Forest (hunters, 4-wheelers, mush-roomers, shed hunters, fishermen, sightseers, bird watchers, hikers, snow mobiles, cross country skiers, etc). Their first act: cancel the ill-conceived and big game sanctuary destroying Ellis Integrated Vegetation Project.

Our forefathers were the first and only pioneers to live in these Blue Mountains. Glen Ward and Dick Wilkinson illustrated the stewardship of our forefathers for our greatest resource, our most precious heritage. It is our responsibility to pass this heritage to our posterity.  
Stuart Dick

**Christine Drazan for governor**

To the Editor:

I recently became a supporter of Christine Drazan after meeting her at a meet and greet sponsored by Bobby Levy. Christine impressed me by her commitment to service, her willingness to stand up for Oregonians, and her natural leadership abilities.

Christine is a fighter. As the House Republican Leader, she stood up to Kate Brown and Tina Kotek and won. She led a unified caucus to oppose tax increases, stop cap-and-trade in its tracks, and protect our rights and freedoms.

Christine understands the challenges we face and how to fix them. She is the only candidate in this race with the experience to start putting our state back on the right track on Day One. As governor:

-Christine will end Kate Brown's state of emergency and repeal her mask and vaccine mandates on her first day in office.

-She will repeal Kate Brown's unconstitutional cap-and-trade program.

-Christine will support our police officers and hold criminals fully accountable

for their crimes.

-She will keep our schools open full time and in person, get back to the basics in the classroom, give parents a forum to be heard, and leave the politics at home where it belongs.

-She will lead efforts to cut taxes, get the government off the backs of our small businesses, and make Oregon a more affordable place to live and raise a family.

Here's the good news: We have a unique opportunity in this election to bring real change to our state and to finally put Oregon back on the right track.

Christine Drazan is the best candidate for the job. She has the experience, the track record and the vision for restoring our state. And with your support, she will be the next Governor of Oregon.

Please support Christine as I am by contributing to her campaign <http://www.christineforgovernor.com>

Your vote and your interest in the leadership of our state is so important.

Debbie Radie  
Morrow County resident

**A country worth fighting for**

I recently saw a poll about whether one would stay and fight if someone (violently) invaded our country. About 40 percent of Democrats said they would stay and fight; about 60 percent of Republicans said they would stay and fight.

This was interpreted to mean that more Republicans thought our country was worth fighting and dying for.

To paraphrase former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Republicans are more likely to believe that America isn't what's wrong with the world, it's what's right.

When I first began to fear we were seriously at risk of losing the country I'd lived in and loved for over 60 years, I worried that perhaps America had become my idol. I finally realized that while that was not appropriate, appreciating America as a precious gift from God

is very appropriate. I believe God participated in the founding of our nation, just as the Founding Fathers themselves did. That does not mean I believe he made a perfect nation, but rather that He helped establish, or perhaps directed the establishment of, an infrastructure (e.g., the Constitution) which not only made something good, but something upon which improvement could and would be made.

Kind of like me. I'm not a perfect person because I'm a child of God. I'm a work in progress. So is America. We don't need a reset. We just need to keep building on the foundation and checking the plumbline to make sure we're lined up straight and centered, ready to adjust if we need to (and we always will, since this is an imperfect world.)

Let's not throw out the baby with the bath water.

Sandra Johnson  
Heppner

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**MARCH 31ST  
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Gilliam & Bisbee Building

Desserts and refreshments provided

by AJ's Baked Goodies

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