

~ 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 \$15. Email to editor@rapidsolve.net or upload to Heppner.net.

**Appreciating SMC**

Several years ago, the Court St. Market was converted into a pizza café by Ron and Bev Howe. It was called "Howes About Pizza?" The Howes were well-liked, and the business was successful.

Eventually, Ron passed away and a funeral was held at the Assembly of God Church, officiated by Rev. David Jenkins.

In an aging community, such as Heppner, funerals are a pretty regular event. A powerful message was delivered by Rev. David Jenkins which was, in fact, a call to action for those attending the service.

Rev. Jenkins shared the following: Before you die, there are three things you need to do. First, get yourself a will. Second, reconcile with anyone with whom you have a disagreement. Thirdly, get involved with a support group.

In our case, we have the first two items well covered. It is the third item on this list that has now become apparent to us and has been well-covered since moving to South Morrow County in the summer of 1972.

We have recently moved to Hermiston and have come to realize that our support group for over fifty years was the entire South Morrow County community including its businesses, its public offices, and its churches yet most of all, its people.

This letter is for the purpose of expressing our appreciation to the South Morrow County community for being the support group for us and our family. It has truly been a wonderful experience living with such extraordinary people and we are most grateful.

In closing, please know that we value each and every one of you and perhaps if you are in the Hermiston area, you might have time to stop by for a cup of coffee and a chat.

John and Pat Edmondson. Hermiston, OR.

**Todd Nash for Senate**

A Champion of Work Ethic and Agricultural Values

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for Todd Nash as the ideal candidate for Oregon Senate District 29. In a political landscape often clouded by rhetoric and divisiveness, Todd Nash stands out as a beacon of integrity, driven by a profound work ethic and unwavering commitment to the agricultural values that form the backbone of our community. Todd Nash's work ethic is not merely a campaign slogan but a defining characteristic that has been evident throughout his career. As a rancher and small business owner, Todd understands the value of hard work, perseverance, and dedication to achieving meaningful results. His hands-on approach to problem-solving and his willingness to roll up his sleeves and get the job done exemplify the kind of leadership we need in the Oregon Senate.

Beyond his exemplary work ethic, Todd Nash is a staunch advocate for the agricultural community. Having grown up on a family ranch and dedicated his life to farming and ranching, Todd intimately understands the challenges and opportunities fac-

ing Oregon's agricultural sector. He recognizes the importance of supporting our farmers and ranchers, promoting sustainable practices, and preserving our rural way of life for future generations. In a time of uncertainty and rapid change, Todd Nash offers a steady hand and a clear vision for the future of Oregon Senate District 29. His leadership is grounded in the values of hard work, integrity, and a deep respect for the land. Whether it's advocating for rural economic development, protecting our natural resources, or championing policies that support our agricultural community, Todd Nash has proven time and again that he is the right choice to represent us in the Oregon Senate.

As voters, we have the opportunity to elect a leader who embodies the best of who we are as a community. Todd Nash is that leader. I urge my fellow residents of Oregon Senate District 29 to join me in supporting Todd Nash for the Oregon Senate.

Erin Hansell-Heideman  
Ione, OR

**Nash for Senate**

We hope you will join us in voting for Todd Nash, whose dedication to conservative values and unwavering commitment to protecting our rights make him the right choice to serve and represent Senate District 29 and all our communities. Todd is a voice we can trust.

It's crucial to have leaders who prioritize the preservation of our fundamental freedoms and uphold traditional values. Todd Nash embodies these principles with his advocacy for conservative ideals. His track record demonstrates a deep understanding of the importance of limited government, individual liberty, and fiscal responsibility.

Todd's character speaks volumes about his suitability for the role he seeks. He is a person of integrity and honesty and uses his elected power to do good for us and our communities. His commitment to serving with transparency and accountability sets him apart, he's looking out for us and our livelihoods.

We are confident that Todd Nash will diligently work to represent our interests and safeguard our rights. His unwavering dedication to conservative principles ensures that our voices will be heard and our values upheld.

In Todd Nash, we have a candidate who not only shares our beliefs but also possesses the integrity and character necessary to effectively lead, guided by those beliefs and values. We urge our fellow citizens to join us in voting for Todd Nash who will better our communities and protect our conservative values.

June and Robert Jones  
Wallowa OR 97805

**BOC not honoring their commitments**

"BOC certifies (and adopts) new ASA plan." (Gazette Times, 4/24/24). BOC Chairman David Sykes pledged in a Morrow County Fact sheet (1/25/24) at five public meetings in Morrow County this year: "Future meetings will be held in each City once OHA has completed in legal review. Only after those meetings will the Board of Commission vote to adopt and certify the ASA

plan." (Morrow County stamped fact sheet Jan. 25, 2024).

This letter documents the current BOC ASA official written commitment to the citizens of Morrow County that has not been honored. The current BOC has been in office for 16 months, yet Morrow County still does not have one) a site for the new Circuit Courthouse or 2) an adopted ASA that has yet to take effect or 3) an ad hoc committee to administer the plan or 4) even a date for proposals (RFP) for the new ASA ambulance plan.

The new Circuit Courthouse is a trainwreck. The previous BOC had already established a committee to review potential Courthouse sites. The current BOC established a new Committee over a year ago. A year and four months since they took office, they still do not have a site. After broken promise after broken pledge, a Boardman site is on the table.

An extensive technical evaluation of the Heppner Historical Courthouse by the previous BOC in 2021 revealed significant structural restoration was needed immediately. Not only is the current BOC considering moving the new Circuit Courthouse to Boardman they are also neglecting their responsibility to restore and repair Morrow County's greatest historic landmark. Obviously, money is not an issue with all the millions of S.I.P. money flowing into the county coffers from windmills and Amazons.

The current BOC and their administrator have not honored their commitments to the citizens of Morrow County and their present agenda is hidden, confusing, and ominous.

Stuart Dick Irrigon

**Nash cares about our community**

Having known Todd for many years, we are compelled to voice our support for him to be elected as our senator for Senate District 29. Unlike many politicians, Todd isn't in this for the show; he genuinely cares about our community and its well-being.

One of Todd's greatest strengths is his deep understanding of who we are as a community. He recognizes that the farming and agricultural industries drive our economy and knows the importance of preserving our culture and traditions. Todd doesn't just speak empty words about these values; he embodies them in his actions and advocacy.

Todd is an authentic leader proven by his long history of advocacy and is intimately familiar with these issues because they impact him in his daily life too as a rancher. He listens to our concerns and works tirelessly to address them, without seeking the spotlight or making empty promises.

We trust Todd to represent our interests effectively and honestly. He understands the unique challenges we face and has the knowledge, experience, and relationships to navigate the complexities of government on our behalf in Salem.

Todd's commitment to our community goes beyond mere words; it's evident in his actions and dedication to making a tangible difference in the lives of those he serves. We wholeheartedly support

Todd, and we urge our fellow community members to do the same and vote for Todd Nash in the May election to represent Senate District 29.

Phil & Kathy Caldwell  
Stanfield OR

**Please join me in supporting Todd Nash for Senator**

Todd has served as Wallowa County Commissioner for over seven years demonstrating his strong work ethic and commitment to improving our economy, our communities, and our infrastructure in Eastern Oregon. He has been instrumental in providing ongoing support and knowledge in seeking funding opportunities for the wastewater project at the Union County Fairgrounds.

Todd Nash is professional, approachable, and committed in his desire to support and improve Eastern Oregon. This passion will continue as he advocates in Salem as a Senator for the interests of Senate District 29. Vote Todd Nash for Senator.

Matt Scarfo  
Union County Commissioner, La Grande, OR.

**WHA?**

One beautiful sunny morning, while surveying my menagerie of farm critters, I noticed Big Billy Goat was unmercifully hassling Little Billy Goat. Now I know they spar now and then, but this was considerably more intense than normal, and I could tell the usually sedate Big Billy had every intention of taking out his counterpart.

A little more observation and the reason for the conflict became quite clear. It was a battle over the heart of one apparently very hot beauty queen.

I watched as Big Billy wandered around the pen, closely following Miss Beauty while spouting what he must have considered his best pickup line. "Wha wha wha... wha wha wha wha", stopping only to make sure Little Billy wasn't planning any interference.

When Miss Beauty was less than inviting, he tried again. "Wha wha wha... wha wha wha wha". Pretty sure she wished she had a door to slam in his face. But he was relentless. By this time, I'm thinking Dude...what are you doing? She didn't ask you a question. She doesn't even like you.

Not to be easily discouraged, he then added a sort of spit/gag/sneeze thing to his mating call. She wasn't impressed. Since Big Billy wasn't making any headway, Little Billy decided it was a good time to make his move.

Bad idea. Big Billy sent him packing with a sideways headbutt. The fight was on, and it didn't take long for the younger suiter to decide Beauty wasn't worth the effort. He retreated to the goat house. Big Billy got in a few final licks, and I decided the two of them needed to be separated or Little Billy might never see the light of day again.

Before I knew it, I was down on all fours, trying to coax Little Billy out of his safe zone/goat house. By my calculations, I had about 6.5 seconds before Big Billy discovered my protrud-

ing posterior that happened to be between him and the enemy. This might not end well, I thought, as I yanked Little Billy's horns toward me. My adrenaline must have kicked in and I got him out with at least 1 second to spare, dragged him to his new home and quickly shut the gate.

My attention then turned to Beauty. She was obviously not smitten with Big Billy and was desperately trying to avoid his advances. Being the tender-hearted Farm Lady that I am and having to discourage a few suitors of my own back in my day, I decided the best thing for her was to remove her pursuer from the premises.

So, a few turns around the pen and I got a firm grip on Big Billy via his rather large set of horns. Maybe he thought I was taking him to a new love interest, since the last romance didn't work out, but whatever the reason, he surprisingly came along with little resistance.

It was only after arriving at our destination that I remembered that I had recently turned the two small pens into one large pen. Dang. Now I had the task of making it back into two pens.... meanwhile playing referee to two excited and fairly confrontive Billy goats.

After a little sweat, a lot of prayer, a wooden pallet, and a few bungee cords, I successfully separated the pens and the goats without any major trauma. Feeling rather accomplished and proud that I had most certainly saved Beauty from a life of despair, I fed and watered all three goats. Perfect. Not. Now Big Billy is ramming the pallet repeatedly and Little Billy is attacking the bungee cords....and losing.

It got me to thinking. I wonder which came first, the stupidity or the brain damage. Or is this behavior something that's just unique to the male species in general...no offense...of course.

By Susie Crosby from Prineville, OR.

**My honor to stand behind Todd Nash**

As a retired veteran who proudly served my country, it's my honor to stand behind Todd Nash for Senate. Todd's unwavering commitment to serving our veterans, combined with his dedication to upholding conservative values and defending our constitutional rights, distinguishes him as the undeniable choice

to represent us in the state senate.

As a father of two sons who have served, Todd understands firsthand the sacrifices made by our service men and women, and their families. He will ensure veterans receive the support they deserve, advocating for increased access to jobs housing, and mental health resources to address the unique challenges they face during their transition back to civilian life.

Todd has 15+ years of experience testifying, advocating, and working with the legislature on behalf of our issues, and has built relationships on both sides of the aisle. He prioritizes local decision-making and smaller government. He recognizes the most effective solutions often originate from those intimately familiar with the issues at hand, and he empowers our local leaders.

Todd will protect, defend, and advocate for our constitutional rights and freedoms in Salem, including the Second Amendment, which is important to me and many others in our community. He already has a proven track record including testifying numerous times before the legislature, whereas his opponents do not.

I urge my fellow citizens to join me in supporting Todd Nash. With Todd as our Senator, our voices will be heard, our values protected, and our veterans honored as they deserve.

Chuck Wilcox  
Hermiston, OR

**Todd Nash has my support**

Todd Nash has my enthusiastic support in the upcoming Senate District 29 election. Todd is honest, trustworthy, and firm on his principles, making him the best candidate to be our voice and protect our values.

Todd leads with integrity, and his dedication to upholding ethical standards is clear to anyone who has the opportunity to meet him and get to know him.

I am particularly impressed by Todd's endorsement by Pro-life advocates, as he is the only candidate to receive an endorsement from the Oregon Right to Life PAC. This speaks volumes about his values and his dedication to defending the sanctity of life.

Todd's children serving in our military reflect the strength of character and

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