

~ 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.

Todd Nash is built to be OUR Senator

Growing up in a small rural community gave me an appreciation for heart felt handshakes, ingrained in me the value of integrity, and showed me the importance of local neighbors working together. Through the years Todd Nash has always stood out to me. He is a man to look up to, and the kind of rare leader who is passionate and steady without needing to be the loudest voice in the room. He is unlike many of the LOUD and selfish people who somehow become career politicians and sets himself apart with his genuine care for the betterment of our personal lives and communities.

I have been so inspired with his willingness to step up and lead effectively in many community roles! He brings an air of thoughtful response, quiet confidence, and willingness to work with others to any challenge he is presented. Todd is great about seeing potential in people and encouraging them to grow and accomplish as much as they can. People who get the chance to work with Todd will simply get more done!

Todd's values and priorities for our state give me personal hope and confidence for the future of my family here. Todd knows we want to live and raise our children in safe communities, where our law enforcement professionals have the support, they need! He sees we are tired of the continuing cycle of criminals who get regurgitated back onto our streets and wishes to see meaningful penalties for violent offenders. Like us, he strongly holds to our constitutional rights, and the heritage that has helped build our great state. He also believes that children are precious and should be supported in their right to life, as well as the chance to grow up in a thriving community!

Todd isn't one to brag, but I am here to tell you he is strongly supported by retiring senator Bill Hansel, the NRA, several dozen County Commissioners, The Right to Life Pact, and many other's! Todd Nash is the man for this job and will work hard for us. Please join me in supporting him with your vote!

Clayton Lowe
La Grande, Oregon

Smith's principles are good for Salem

As business owners in Umatilla County for over 25 years, we know job creation does not start in Salem, it starts right here at home. It is achieved through strong leadership and the promotion of policies that encourage steady growth, support existing businesses, and attract new business. This is accomplished by building a strong relationship with community members and respecting their needs.

Greg has been there for us personally and professionally by being a sound resource of advice and mentorship. He is very accessible to his community, making himself available and always approachable. He truly cares about his community, its businesses, and the people in it. He has helped us through many challenges and has been there to celebrate successes.

Greg Smith has demonstrated this kind of leadership through his com-

mon-sense approach to the challenges we continue to face. Time and time again, Rep. Smith has embraced his responsibility of supporting small businesses. His tireless efforts to bring in new business, while protecting local businesses, is commendable. We know that we can trust Greg to have our backs and be a strong voice in Salem.

Please join us in voting for Greg Smith's reelection to House District 57.

Daren & Paulette Du-floth, Umatilla Or.

Smith exemplifies community engagement

As a community organizer, I have had the pleasure of interacting and working with Greg quite often over the last two years. Greg is active and present in each community he represents, in a way that feels personable and meaningful to each constituent. His friendly, approachable, and problem-solving demeanor makes him particularly popular amongst the residents of the region.

Every time I've met with or heard about Greg, his commitment to our little town is deeply moving. He has participated in community clean up events, literally cleaning up garbage in the streets. Greg has done meet-and-greets at our Friday Nights on Main live music series, sponsored our community Awards Banquet, attended choir performances, and spent Holidays with us in Milton-Freewater. Greg has been a great ear for me personally on several occasions, repeatedly demonstrating how he is willing to stop everything, just to listen.

Most importantly, Greg gets things DONE. In late 2023, Milton-Freewater experienced one of many fatal traffic accidents on Highway 11; this one was particularly painful and the people of Milton-Freewater began to reach out to Greg for solutions. Immediately, Greg came to Milton-Freewater to hold a community forum about traffic safety on Highway 11. Among those he brought with him were stakeholders from Oregon Department of Transportation and Oregon State Police. The convention of the people of Milton-Freewater with their State Representative and the key group of stakeholders Greg brought with him created the platform for a highly productive community meeting. Within weeks, Greg secured increased State Police presence along this particular stretch of highway.

As an individual, it is my honor to cross the proverbial "party aisle" and write in support of Greg Smith's bid for re-election. As a politician, Greg Smith is one of the most effective, compassionate, and down to earth human beings I have ever met. It has been a pleasure to work with Greg on building a brighter future for our children and families.

Maryelizabeth Garcia, Executive Director

Milton-Freewater, Or. Chamber Downtown Alliance

Smith gives our smallest communities a voice

I have known Greg Smith for over 30 years, and I can attest to the strength of his character and to his dedication to the people of District 57. Ensuring that constituents have a voice in the legislative process is fundamental, especially to our frontier communities that are extremely rural and a long drive from Salem. Legislators serve as the conduit through which the concerns, aspirations, and priorities of their constituents are communicated to the halls of the Capitol.

Greg listens attentively to the needs of his constituents and engages in open dialogue in every community meeting or event he attends. By providing avenues for public input, such as town hall meetings, surveys, and community forums, Greg has fostered transparency and accountability. He has demonstrated a commitment to responsive and inclusive representation. Please join me in voting for Republican Greg Smith for State Representative of House District 57.

Randy Hilderbrand
Sherman County

Greg Smith is a man of integrity

In November 2000, Greg Smith was first elected to represent District 57 in the Oregon State House of Representatives. In the years since then, Greg has demonstrated himself to be honest, positive and extremely hardworking on behalf of the residents of his constituency. He has shown time and again his dedication to represent a portion of the state that is often overlooked and disregarded. He has demonstrated a commitment to representing all entities regardless of their circumstances. His keen commonsense insight into the strengths and challenges that face his region and his continual can-do attitude set him apart from others.

Greg is a good listener. He demonstrates a willingness to learn and grow. When he does not know or understand a point of view or concern, he will ask questions and seek to learn facts. He has shown time and again that he has not only the desire to lead and represent the people but the ability to do so well. Greg has taken a leadership role in the region to help its cities grow and develop. This is especially apparent in Hermiston, as this city has shown strong continual growth and economic development.

Greg is honest and caring. His constant trademark smile is genuine. He has an ongoing concern for people, and he carries that compassion with him everywhere. Through the years in which I have known Greg Smith, he has demonstrated leadership skills, personal and public integrity, thoughtfulness, and an ability to connect with people of all walks of life. These skills are exactly what we need in a representative for our district in the Oregon State House of Representatives.

I strongly encourage you to join me in support of Greg Smith's reelection bid as State Representative of House District 57.

Cathy Lloyd
Hermiston

Smith has shown professionalism

As the Hermiston School District superintendent, I know firsthand how difficult it can be to balance the needs of our educators, students, parents, and community. In an age of political grandstanding, the easiest thing to do is to sit back and blame others for the problems we experience, and it seems many politicians do that.

Rep. Smith chooses the harder, less politically expedient road. He focuses on finding common ground and developing pragmatic solutions to problems. He isn't afraid to work across the aisle, across agencies, across the state and more if it means delivering for his school districts, ports, counties, communities, or individuals.

Rep. Smith's beliefs and values allow him to represent us well. At the same time, his experience and professionalism have allowed him to become an effective and powerful statesman for us in Salem. Many issues our region has faced have been quietly and effectively solved through his advocacy.

I cannot be more honored to have Rep. Smith as our voice in Salem. Thank you, Greg, for your service, your example, and your leadership.

Dr. Tricia Mooney, Superintendent
Hermiston School District

Smith trades on experience

Greg Smith has proudly served the Milton-Freewater community for over 14 years, as our State Representative. His tenure in the Oregon Legislature has allowed him to master the legislative process and forge deep relationships with colleagues in Salem. Experienced legislators play a pivotal role in shaping effective governance and policy-making. Their depth of knowledge, acquired through years of service and understanding of legislative intricacies, equips them with the insight needed to navigate complex issues facing their constituents.

Seasoned lawmakers, like Greg, bring invaluable institutional memory, ensuring continuity and stability in government operations. Their ability to anticipate challenges, negotiate compromises, and build consensus based on past experiences fosters pragmatic decision-making and promotes long-term solutions to enduring problems.

In an era marked by rapid change and increasing complexity, the presence of experienced legislators is essential for maintaining institutional effectiveness and safeguarding the democratic process. Please join me in voting for Republican Greg Smith for State Representative of House District 57.

Paul Seaquist
Milton-Freewater

Smith the right choice for District 57

Ballots are in the mail, and we would like to urge you all in voting to reelect Greg Smith, State Representative for House District 57. Greg has been a personal friend for many years but more importantly, he has been a friend to Eastern Oregon.

Greg knows and understands the issues facing rural Oregon. He understands the strengths and challenges of our communities. We continue to watch as he fights with honesty and common sense for Eastern Oregon.

Greg Smith has true compassion for the residents of District 57 and a willingness to listen to people's problems, concerns, and suggestions. He is a true leader giving careful thought to decisions he makes, and he is willing to share those reasons. Often, he is called upon to lead discussions and bring all sides into focus, coming out with a consensus of the whole — not an easy task.

We urge you to join us in voting for Greg Smith. His work ethic, values, and experience make him the right choice for District 57.

Bryan and Lou Ann Wolfe, Hermiston, Or.

Clearance Rack

Do you ever feel like you've been put on the clearance rack? Just hanging there hoping someone will eventually see some value in you that's worth a second look. Getting older does that to you sometimes. It makes you realize that not everything gets better with age. The whole "fine wine" thing doesn't always cut it.

It's not like I stand around looking in the mirror. In fact, I spend as little time as possible there. My goal in that position hasn't exactly been to strive for perfection. "Good enough" is usually where I end. About once a year or so, I put on a little mascara. But it usually ends up in my eye or running down my cheek.

So, I think maybe the clearance rack thing is more of a feeling that by "this

age", I should have my act together...maybe even accomplished at least ONE thing I set out to in my youth. Or maybe I just wanna see that I'm making a difference somewhere. One can only make so many quilts and, although I'm sure the animals appreciate being fed on a regular basis, I know for a fact that they haven't a clue what a bale of hay costs.

But one day something happened that made me think maybe I was on the right track and actually doing something more valuable than making a goat happy (no offense to the goat).

Part of my duties at the ER was making follow-up phone calls to check on patients and ask a few questions about how they are doing and how they viewed their care. My co-worker and I split the large lists of patients to call, and we each had about 40 calls to make.

I was on about my 5th call that day when I asked the last question, which is "Is there anyone in particular you'd like to recognize who gave you exceptional care". (I've asked this enough that I know the questions by heart). Well, this patient got kind of excited and said "Oh yes! There was this one nurse... she was so good! She was really sweet...wait a minute. I even wrote her name down in my phone."

The next thing she said was a total shocker..." Susie Crosby...that's her name. She was sooooo kind!" I said, "Hey...that's me!" OK, so I'm not exactly a nurse but I was basking in the moment and didn't correct her. She said some other very nice things and we laughed about the fact that I was the one to call her. I'm not writing this to blow my own horn. I just want to remind folks that, sometimes we have the power to make a big impact with just a few words...whether it's words of kindness to a patient or recognition for an act of kindness. Words do count.

Thank you, Lord, for taking me off the clearance rack. I won't ever forget how she made me feel. And it's a good thing I wasn't wearing mascara.

By Susie Crosby
Prineville, Or




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The City of Heppner will be offering vouchers for 1 free dump, per account, at the South Morrow County Transfer Station. Vouchers are redeemable for the period beginning April 20, 2024 and valid through May 19, 2024. Must be a current customer of the City of Heppner (water or water/sewer account,) and your account must be in good standing. Customers must request their voucher in advance at City Hall and present to Transfer Station attendant at time of redemption. No rain checks.