

~ 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 \$16 Email to editor@rapidsolve.net or upload to Heppner.net.

Nonsense

Just sitting here wondering what happened to all the normal people. I remember when everybody knew that kids who threw rocks at people were brats. Common thoughts were, “Where are their parents?!” and “That kid needs a trip to the woodshed!”

Well, my thinking hasn’t changed much. As I learn what’s happening on the streets of America today, I’m picturing some pretty large woodsheds are needed...with lots of kindling sticks. And I would still like to know where their parents are.

Just a thought: I wonder if the downhill spiral might have accelerated when we decided a woman’s place wasn’t in the home and we started letting others take on the parenting role. I know...it’s hard to make it on one income these days and I’m not faulting women for doing what they feel they have to do. But regardless of the reason behind it, the diminishing time spent raising our own kids has given lots of room to some “bad actors,” and the negative influence they’ve had on the last generation is showing.

Even if you’ve had the first couple years with your kids, the influence of the following years is critical to forming a decent human being. Today, the garbage being fed to kids in school is more toxic than ever. And it’s not just classroom time doing the damage. Social media is turning young minds to mush. Now they have the opportunity to “connect” with all kinds of crazy. Are there some good teachers out there? Yes, for sure, but they have a huge fight on their hands just trying to teach the truth.

I know that a parent can do “everything right” and still watch their kids go downhill. God is the perfect parent and Adam and Eve sure messed up. And remember who’s lurking around “seeking whom he can destroy.” He has a lot of tools at his disposal these days.

But still, I can’t help but wonder how in the world so many people could get it so wrong...I mean, some lies are easy to believe, especially with enough propaganda. I get that. But the current nonsense is pretty incredible.

- 1) Female and male anatomy are just suggestions.
- 2) Men in women’s sports is fair.
- 3) Babies are disposable.
- 4) Only good folks cross borders.
- 5) Throwing rocks, burning cars and looting is peaceful protesting.
- 6) It’s ok to hate Jews.
- 7) The world will be safe with a nuke-capable Iran.
- 8) Biden was never obtunded.
- 9) Trump just wants to be king.
- 10) Terrorists and the news media can be trusted.
- 11) There is no God and we’re all here by accident (Satan loves that one).

So, how do we thwart the lies? We continue to tell the truth, boldly. We will be accused of being unloving, insensitive, intolerant and all kinds of nasty things. But watching silently while the truth is getting buried beneath a mountain of deceit isn’t helping anyone...

especially our kids. Don’t let anyone reinvent morality...or truth. There is right and wrong, good and evil, and real truth. If we look for it, the evidence is overwhelming.

“Don’t let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world, rather than from Christ” Colossians 2:8.

Susie Crosby
Prineville, OR

Heppner Does Care

It was rewarding to learn that several Heppner area residents took to the street to protest President Trump’s actions on “No Kings” day. A photo of them was featured on the KGW evening news as the opening for the station’s coverage of “No Kings” day.

I was pleased to learn some people stopped and chatted and some honked and waved. Heppner area folks do care about the issues which are too numerous to mention.

If you do care, I encourage you to contact your congressional representatives by email, phone or the US mail. Our representative is Cliff Bentz and our senator is Jeff Merkley. Contact information is easily found on the internet.

Joan Larson
Heppner, OR

Bad Leadership Rewarded

To the Community of Morrow County,

This letter is intended for those who may not be fully aware of the recent decisions made by the Mor-

row County Health District Board members.

The current board consists of Diane Kilkenny (Chair), Scott Ezell, Stephen Munkers, Donna Rietmann and Laura Torres. These board members approved extremely generous severance packages for two employees—Emily Roberts and Nicole Mahoney—who voluntarily resigned from the Health District. That’s right—your tax dollars at work.

Emily Roberts resigned on March 30, and Nicole Mahoney’s last day was June 13. Despite resigning, they were rewarded with severance packages totaling \$440,000 for Ms. Roberts and \$370,000 for Ms. Mahoney. Additionally, Ms. Mahoney is set to receive a \$50,000 bonus check on January 1, 2026.

The board claims these severance packages are standard practice for administrative staff. I urge any former administrative employees to come forward and confirm—or refute—this assertion.

This decision is both shameful and unacceptable. Ms. Roberts and Ms. Mahoney oversaw the firing or resignation of more than 40 employees over the past three and a half years. Their leadership resulted in a culture of fear and instability. And now, the very individuals responsible for dismantling employee rights and job security are being handsomely rewarded.

There is even a pending lawsuit related to Ms. Roberts’s actions, highlighting further concerns about her conduct. These two individuals have, metaphorically, torn this district’s hospital apart—yet the board has chosen to reward them.

Last year, the district cited a lack of funds when providing only a 0.5 percent cost-of-living adjustment for employees. How, then, can it justify nearly a million dollars in payouts to two individuals who resigned?

I sincerely question whether this board’s intention is to leave the Health District financially crippled before new board members can begin to repair the damage.

I strongly encourage every concerned taxpayer to attend the upcoming board meeting on Monday, June 30, in Boardman. Your voice matters.

Sincerely,
Jimmy Wimer, RDMS
(AB, BR), RT(R)(CT), ARRT
Heppner, OR

Collective Psychosis

To the editor:
Let’s recap. Protestors bravely stood up against a monarchy that doesn’t exist in this country, and hasn’t since 1776. This is collective psychosis.

Respectfully,
Keith Gallagher
Gooseberry, OR

Heppner burn ban correction

The burn ban for the City of Heppner went into effect Monday, June 16, at 7 a.m. Last week’s G-T incorrectly stated the start time as 7 p.m. No open burning is allowed until further notice. Burn barrels are included in the ban.

The Gazette-Times editor apologizes for the error.

MoCo Republicans to meet June 25

The Morrow County Republicans will meet at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, June 25, at the Bellamy house in Lexington, OR. Precinct Committee Persons (PCPs) and anyone interested in the county Republican Party are encouraged to attend. Discussions will center on the summer 2025 events.

The MCRP Summer FUNdraiser event is scheduled for 7 p.m. this Friday, June 20, at the American Legion Hall in Ione, OR. The event will feature an American Trivia team competition, an auction, and dessert.

Also at the event, 2025 rifle raffle tickets will go on sale for a custom Howa 1500 hunting rifle with a Pendleton composite long-range hunter stock. T5 Firearm Solution put together the gun, which features a tungsten cerakote finish and is equipped with an Arken

EP5 5-25 scope. T5 Firearm Solutions hold the gun until the drawing, and then custom load it with 7mm PRC ammo upon pickup by the winner.

A limited number of raffle tickets will be available to those 18 years or older for \$25 each or five for \$100.

PCP positions are open for Heppner, Boardman and Irrigon. Individuals interested in one of these positions are encouraged to attend this meeting to learn about the positions. PCP appointments can be made during MCRP meetings.

The Republican Party is open to individuals interested in conservative ideals and values. The Republican Party platform can be found at <https://oregon.gop/>. For more information on the Morrow County Republican Party, contact mocoreps@gmail.com.

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