

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

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Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association

**The Heppner GAZETTE-TIMES**  
Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper  
U.S.P.S. 240-420

Published every Thursday and entered as second-class matter at the Post Office at Heppner, Oregon under the Act of March 3, 1879. Second-class postage paid at Heppner, Oregon.  
Office at 147 West Willow Street, Telephone (503) 676-9228.  
Address communications to the Heppner Gazette-Times, P.O. Box 337, Heppner, Oregon 97836.  
\$10.00 in Morrow, Umatilla, Wheeler & Gilliam counties;  
\$12.00 elsewhere.

**David and April Hilton Sykes, Publishers**

**Hospital Notes**

Patients admitted and released from Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner over the past week include:

Erika Bergstrom, Ione - admitted March 14, released March 16;  
Audrey Standly, Lexington - admitted March 15, released March 18;  
Bradley Schmidt, Ione - admitted March 16, released March 19;  
Rosetta Palmateer, Ione - admitted March 16, released March 18;

March 18:  
Mindy Binschus, Heppner - admitted March 18, released March 19; and  
Jean Nelson, Lexington - admitted March 19, released March 21.  
Patients still receiving care at the hospital as of Monday, March 22 included:  
Clarence Rice, Lexington, admitted March 16; and  
Charles Morris, Condon - admitted March 16.

**Yes vote a step up**

To the editor:  
I am writing this letter to ask your support for the budget of Blue Mountain Community College on March 30. In this time of high unemployment the need for the college is greater than ever. People with good job skills will be able to find employment and that is what the college is all about. The education the college gives to students in all departments develops their abilities and job skills so they can become contributing members of our society.

The college staff, budget committee, and board members have gone through the budget item by item and believe every item is necessary to provide the services the patrons of Umatilla and Morrow counties need. The future of many is in your hands, please help. A yes vote is a step up the ladder of success for the students of BMCC.

Sincerely,  
Bob Rietmann  
Board Member  
Ione, Oregon

**Consider the following**

To the editor:  
On March 30 when you are voting on the budget for Blue Mountain Community College, consider the following facts:  
Enrollment in continuing education classes in south Morrow County (Ione, Lexington, Heppner) has doubled over the past two years. There are over 200 people, per term, taking advantage of class offerings through BMCC in this area.

The number of different class offerings has also increased. There are now between 15-20 different offerings available each term. These offerings include classes from three categories: transfer courses, vocational preparatory and upgrading courses, and adult enrichment courses. When you vote on March 30, remember the opportunities being offered in your community through Blue Mountain Community College.

Nancy Brownfield  
BMCC Continuing Education Coordinator  
South Morrow County  
Heppner, Oregon 97836

**Letters To The Editor**

**Vote 'yes'**

To the editor:  
On behalf of students, teachers, and volunteers of the Heppner Adult Basic Education program sponsored by BMCC, we strongly urge all Morrow County voters to vote "yes" March 30 to continue BMCC's educational opportunities in our area.

The Heppner site of Adult Basic Education has had an enrollment of 27 students this year. Adult Basic Education serves handicapped adults; non-English speaking adults learning English as a second language; adults preparing for the GED and adults preparing for a BMCC adult high school diploma.

Education is a continuing process: BMCC provides that continuum for Morrow County residents. It will provide a small adult basic education program in the Boardman area this fall.

Please give BMCC's budget your consideration. Vote "Yes" March 30.

Sincerely,  
Joy Krein  
Peggy Fishburn,  
Alena Anderson,  
Donna Privett,  
Nella Britt

**Keep sales tax out of Oregon**

To the editor:  
The Republican Party has proven again their admiration for the sales tax by its recent endorsement of this unfair tax at the Dorchester Conference.

This regressive form of taxation has been repeatedly rejected by Oregon Democrats. Unlike most political issues in this state, the party lines are very clearly drawn on this subject.

The electorate knows that the more ways you can tax the citizen, the more taxes there will be. State taxes in Oregon are about average among the fifty states; add a sales tax and we will be among the highest.

California has a sales tax and their citizens carry a heavy tax burden. The state of Washington has a sales tax and their form of taxation is among the most regressive in the nation; it has not kept that state from going broke.

The main argument for a sales tax is the alleged stability it brings to revenue collection. But such stability is illusory in a declining economy. In addition, the sales tax is the cruelest tax, in that an unemployed mill worker or a senior citizen on a limited fixed income pays the same tax rate as a wealthy person. We can accomplish the same thing in Oregon with a large "Prudent Person Reserve Fund" to cushion the effects of periodic economic recession. We should not be like the state of Washington which must depend upon a good Christmas shopping season to balance the state budget.

Those who advocate a sales tax as a replacement for property taxes should also be reminded that this scheme will not lower the total tax bill, only remove local control of local property tax-supported government. The sales tax would dramatically shift power to state government in Salem away from the people.

A majority of Democrats in both the State House and Senate will keep the general sales tax out of Oregon. This is a pledge that must and will be honored.

Sincerely,  
Dell Isham  
Senate Majority Leader  
S-203 State Capitol  
Salem, Oregon 97310

**More letters on page 4**

Grattan Kerans  
House Majority Leader  
H-295 State Capitol  
Salem, Oregon 97310

**Worthy of support**

To the editor:  
In times like these it is easy to feel upset by tax increases.

Those of us who serve on boards and budget committees know the feeling. We make our living the same way others do.

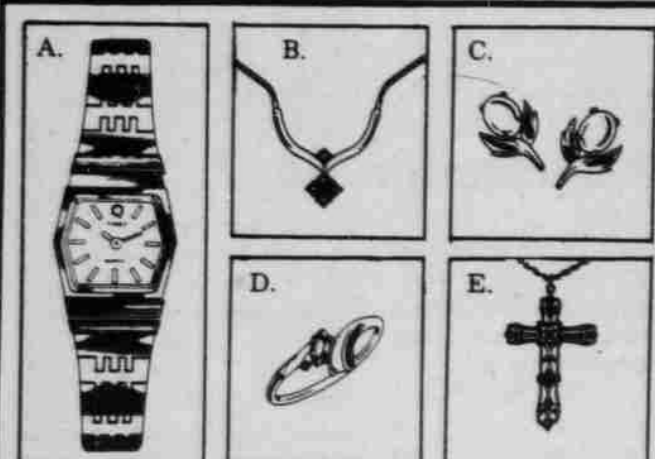
That is why the Morrow County School District Budget Committee has tried to present a budget that is in tune with the times. The ballot for the Morrow County School District Budget vote on March 30 shows an increase in taxes for schools next year. However, it is important for voters to know that although budget-funds which cannot be shown on the ballot, coupled with the ballot, coupled with

reductions in some budget expenditures, which was accompanied by the budget committee, will result in a considerable reduction in the tax for schools next year.

It is expected that if the district's value remained the same, the school tax on a \$60,000.00 home would be \$119.00 less than this year.

I believe we have a good budget request, one that can result in good schools, and at the same time a low tax. It is worthy of your support.

Sincerely,  
Jean Bennett  
Chairman  
Morrow County School District Board



**EASTER ACCENTS**

Spring is in the air and love is blossoming. Show her you care by giving her something special on Easter that she will remember you by forever and ever.



**Support Bob McKinley**

To the editor:  
March 30 is the election date for Morrow County School Board position No. one. I strongly urge the support for this position for Bob McKinley.

I have known Bob for several years, he is a strong dedicated person and would do an excellent job for the people of Boardman and Morrow County in this position.

Sincerely,  
Kenneth Broadbent  
Boardman, OR.

**Health Dept.**

Friday, March 26 - free blood pressure clinic and immunizations, Lexington Health Dept. office, 8 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 to 4 p.m.

**To anyone concerned**

To the editor:  
Usually one assumes that a yes vote on the school budget signifies a real interest in furthering our children's education. I can't believe this to be true when voting March 30 on the upcoming school budget.

At present, we do not offer sufficient vocational courses in Morrow County. Amongst other things, we also do not have enough computer and math classes. For quite some time now we have been spending more, but offering less, to our students.

After completing the most rigorous academic program offered at Heppner High School this year, our son will still take a remedial course in computers when he goes to college, as he could not work this class into his schedule due to lack of equipment and staff.

And he will have to work hard to catch up with other students that have had the advantage of higher math courses. Additionally, and most importantly, we are losing some good teachers because they do not feel Morrow County is seriously committed to quality education. Morale is low.

Our school board needs leadership that only the voters can provide to correct the deficiencies in our school system. You can vote yes and receive more of the same spread thinner. Or you can vote no as long as necessary to free the school board and the administration to ask for an evaluation of our school system and whether it provides what our students need now.

Only the voters of Morrow County can help determine the best way to provide the most benefits for the least amount of taxpayer's money.

Yours truly,  
Meg Murray

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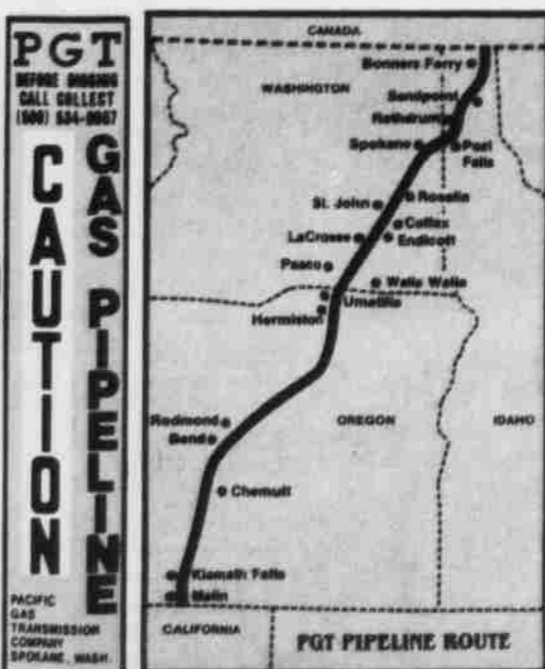
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