

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

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

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David and April Hilton Sykes, Publishers

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Is lone better than the rest of the district?

To the editor:
The people of Morrow County go to the polls to elect school board members whom they think can and should best utilize the tax money for the schools and education of their children.

The board presents to the people of Morrow County a budget, one to be voted on by the people, who in turn approve or disapprove such a budget.

If turned down in the election, the board must find ways to cut the budget so it will get the voters' approval.

Not being able to attend, but having read the minutes of the last several meetings on the topic of the lone schools, I believe the voters of the county are entitled to some answers.

I do not intend to use names but the following statement was from the May 2, 1983 meeting.

I would like to know "what commitment the board has to lone and why it will continue?"

Why does it cost approximately \$1200 more to educate the lone student? Is lone any better than the rest of the district and what do they get that the rest of the district doesn't for the difference? They mention flood clean-up, community involvement in their schools. How about Heppner?

We live in a free world, at least I hope so, threats of sending students to Arlington, voting down the budget if the board doesn't see it their way. These are things that only add dissension in the communities that were brought up at the meetings.

We elected the school board, they are trying (I hope) to do their best, but they don't need to be intimidated by one community as to - if we can't have it, no one can.

Our school tax dollar has less purchasing power, the school board and administration must come up with more concrete answers, the people of the county and those footing the bill, need more answers.

Cast your ballot "Yes" or "No" but remember whose pocket it's coming out of.

Merle Cantin
Heppner

'Yes' on school budget

To the editor:
I would like to encourage the voters of Morrow County to vote "Yes" on the school budget May 17.

In today's economy it is imperative that students receive the best education possible. Those students who have good basic skills plus some specialized skills stand a much better chance of finding a place in the job market. The budget proposed by the district will continue to give the students in Morrow County the opportunity to develop those skills.

Morrow County schools have a reputation for turning out competent graduates. Many of our graduates go on to higher education a compete equally or better than students from other districts. In my own family my oldest son received a good background in the math and sciences. Because of this background, he excelled at college and has been recently admitted to the Oregon Medical Sciences School of Dentistry a year earlier than normal. Without a good background in our local schools he would not have been able to do this.

Help us to maintain the quality of our schools. Vote "Yes" on May 17.

William Sharkey
Boardman

Vote 'Yes'

To the editor:
We urge you to vote "Yes," on the school district levy on May 17.

The budget is only a 2.9 percent increase over last year's budget. That increase is well below the rate of inflation and the tax rate of \$7.96 per \$1,000 evaluation is low compared to the state average of \$13.44.

The school board's recent action restoring the two teaching positions at lone will not cause budget cuts at the other schools in the district nor will it increase the tax rate. Lone still has a 1.5 classified employees cut and a share of the other cuts.

Thinking that closing lone High School would greatly reduce the district's operating costs simply is not true! If IHS closed it would only be a

Ken and Julie Nelson
Box 421
Lexington, Ore.

Only in Heppner

To the editor:
Only in the town of Heppner would you find such great and caring people who really pitch in and work their hearts out to help everyone who needs it.

Thanks seems so inadequate for all the help in moving our store out during the fire and returning to move it all back in a few hours later, but the thanks come from the bottom of our hearts.

For all our neighbors who came to town with pickups to help. For Case Furniture, Ron McDonald, John Wood and Bob Harris for the storage space. Without all the help from the many, many people, it could never have been done.

Thanks to Corkey and Jim Norene and Bonnie and Arlat Campbell for bringing us refreshments during the day. It was greatly appreciated.

But the biggest thanks of all goes to our fire department. They will never know how much all of us appreciate them. They are a great hard working group. We feel so badly for those businesses lost in the fire and do hope we can all work together to get them back in business in a hurry.

Our thanks to each and every one who helped us. We really appreciate it.

The Gardners
Marilynn and Roe
Marj and LeRoy

Time to support fire dept.

To the editor:
After spending three and one-half hours trying to help our volunteer fire department control a fire that took four Main Street buildings, and see them wait one and one-half to two hours for help from the Hermiston Fire Department, I feel it is time we support our department

We need them both.

Terry Hughes
Heppner

Urging support

To the editor:
On May 17, the Morrow County School District will seek approval of its operating budget for the coming year. The request asks for your support of a budget which represents only a 2.9 percent increase over the previous year. This modest increase represents an effort to hold the line despite some rather significant increased costs for services such as electricity and employee insurance.

Morrow County School District has for several years been fortunate in having a very low tax rate for schools. Currently the average tax rate for schools in Oregon is \$13.44 per thousand dollars of valuation.

The budget proposal which is being voted upon is asking for a tax rate of \$7.96 per thousand of valuation. This certainly is one of the lowest school tax rates in the state.

Our county-wide school district is fortunate in that we can draw on the entire county for the support of all of our schools, thus benefitting everyone equally, but this doesn't happen without voter support.

I ask you to consider how really fortunate we are and urge your support for the school levy on May 17.

Sincerely,
Jean Bennett
Heppner

Plans for golden grads?

To the editor:
I graduated with the class of 1953, and only lived there during that school term and made my home with the R.P. Kinne family. I am wondering if there are plans for the golden grads. I would like to hear from someone who might know.

Thanks,
Esther Adams Hanes
Route 1, Box 120
Chewelah, Wn. 99109

Keep schools running

To the editor:
The first attempt of the Morrow County School District to submit an acceptable budget to the voters in this county failed. Not by a great majority, but by 40 votes. It was a shame to see such an occurrence. I do not know if this reflected the citizen's wish to retain low taxes or

Sheriff's Report

The Morrow County Sheriff's Department office at the Morrow County Courthouse in Heppner handled the following calls, cases and reports during the past week:

On May 2, Larry Bowen of the U.S. Forest Service reported the theft of gas from the Forest Service compound. The Heppner Police Department took the report.

Also on May 2, Janet Logan of Miracle Potato, Boardman, reported the theft of a microwave oven. Its value was unknown.

On May 3, a Heppner ambulance responded to a call in lone for a patient who was having trouble breathing. The patient was transported to Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner.

On May 4, the sheriff's office received a fire call at 2:12 a.m. and the Heppner Fire Department responded. Buildings involved were the Shoe Box, S & J Market, the Post Office, the old Post Office building and the Bottom Drawer. The Hermiston Fire Department arrived at approximately 4:36 a.m. to help fight the blaze.

On May 5, a burglary was reported at the Boardman Sandpiper Apartments manager's apartment. It was reported that the person was scared off before anything was taken.

On May 6, a vehicle-pedestrian accident occurred at Main and Green streets in lone. The pedestrian, Alan Roberts, 21, of lone, was transported to Pioneer Memorial Hospital by a Heppner ambulance. Driver of the vehicle was James Jepsen, 19, of lone. No citations were issued.

On May 7, Jeffrey William Stump, 19, of Pendleton, was arrested by a Morrow County sheriff's deputy on a Pendleton Municipal Court warrant for allegedly having No Operator's License on Person. Stump posted bail and was released.

On May 8, a Boardman ambulance transported a female from her residence to Consolidated Good Shepherd Hospital in Hermiston.

Also on May 8, the Heppner Fire Department responded to a call at Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner. A build-up of waste product in the boiler backed up through an auger that feeds fuel to the boiler, and caused enough smoke that it was felt that patients should be evacuated from the immediate area.

In another May 8 incident, a female from Boardman, who reportedly injured her leg in a fall, was transported to St. Anthony Hospital in Pendleton.

In a fourth May 8 incident, Gary S. Stephens, 21, of The Dalles, was cited for allegedly Driving While Suspended and was then released.

On May 9, the Boardman Fire Department responded to a car that was on fire in the west-bound lane of Interstate 84 near milepost 160. The car is owned by Debbie Dowe of Arlington.

In a second incident on May 9, Raymond Hopper, 53, of Irrigon, was arrested on a Wheeler County warrant for allegedly being in Contempt of Court. He was transported to the Wheeler County Jail by a Morrow County sheriff's deputy.

Also on May 9, Darrel Wayne Solomon, 42, of Irrigon, was arrested on circuit court warrants for allegedly being in Violation of Release Terms. Originally charged with three counts of alleged First Degree Sexual Abuse and two counts of First Degree Rape, he was lodged at the Umatilla City Jail.

their dissatisfaction with the school system. Whichever case pertains, the fact remains that the Morrow County School Board and concerned citizens have worked long and hard since that time to reconstruct the proposed budget.

Hopefully, on May 17, when it is submitted to the area voters, they will approve it. It certainly deserves their support.

Out of 19 Gilliam, Wheeler, Umatilla and Morrow school districts, Morrow County has the lowest school tax rate of them all. To illustrate, note the following figures: Morrow Co. - 7.95, Arlington - 18.73, Condon - 21.79, Pilot Rock - 13.81, Echo - 28.86 and Stanfield - 18.07.

These are but a few of those figures which are available to all tax payers. In my opinion, we have very reasonable tax rates for the Morrow County School District. I, for one,

would be willing to pay a little more for continued excellence in education in our district. (And with even the small increase as proposed by the first budget, we would still have had a tax rate lower than any of the other 19 systems mentioned previously.)

In my estimation, that leaves only dissatisfaction with the management of the district, or the administration of the district's funds, as a viable reason for voting "No" on the budget. If that is the case, let your advisory committee to the school board, or better yet, the Morrow Co. School Board members themselves know, what those reasons are! Without input from those dissatisfied, those of us who voted "yes" and still failed are unaware of where the No voters would like to see changes made. But make change we have! And I urged each and every one of you to vote YES when this new budget is submitted to the voters on May 17.

The schools in Morrow County do an excellent job, and for far less than many other schools. Keep our schools running at peak efficiency by supporting the budget. Vote "Yes."

Della Heideman
Ione, Oregon

Correction

In a story in last week's Gazette-Times entitled "Kennedy big winner in FFA Shop Skills Contest," the name of Loran Hayes was omitted.

Hayes placed second in the tap and die contest.

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Justice Court

Morrow County Justice Court at the Morrow County Courthouse in Heppner handled the following cases during the past week:

James Wesley Hayes, Heppner - Third Degree Criminal Mischief, \$55 fine.

Robert Henry Pointer, Ione - Exceeding the Maximum Speed (68 mph in a 55 mph zone), \$28 fine.

Reid Lytell Miller, Lexington - Exceeding the Maximum Speed (75 mph in a 55 mph zone), \$34 fine.

Jay Arthur Coil, Pendleton - Exceeding the Maximum Speed (70 mph in a 55 mph zone), \$55 bail forfeited.

Loren Arthur Heideman, Ione - Exceeding Bag Limit of Game Fish. To wit: trout, \$55 bail forfeited.

Ward Lawrence Walker, Pendleton - Exceeding the Maximum Speed (75 mph in a 55 mph zone), \$28 fine.

Ricky Dean Britt, Lexington - Exceeding the Maximum Speed (72 mph in a 55 mph zone), \$28 fine.

Richard Lee Roy Scheider, Umatilla - Disobeyed Stop Sign, \$14 fine.

Garth Lewis Powell, Philomath - Failure to Dim Headlights, \$39 fine; No High Beam indicator, \$34 bail forfeited.

Ned Elwyn Ransom, Hermiston - Violation of the Basic Rule (47 mph in a 30 mph zone), \$55 bail forfeited.

Robert Richard Greiser, Ione - Defective Equipment, \$24 bail forfeited.

What's Your Opinion?



Question: "With the recent fire on Main Street, do you feel the Heppner Fire Department needs more updated equipment?"

"Yes, most definitely!" said Florence Robinson of Heppner. "I think we have a super fire department, we just need the equipment to match."

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