

## Letters to the Editor

### Rejecting levy will disrupt school year

TO THE EDITOR:  
I'm writing to urge Morrow County voters to consider their votes on the school levy very carefully. I've heard a number of complaints about school costs ranging from teachers salaries, cost of athletic programs and even over elaborate curriculum. Some, of course, are just unhappy because we must rely so heavily on property taxes for our needs.

The real question perhaps is how well the School Board and Administration is doing in holding down costs. The Bureau of Labor in San Francisco says that it takes about \$3.25 to purchase what one dollar would in 1967. Dividing our present per pupil cost by 3-1/4 brings us back to a 1967 constant dollar cost of around \$1400 per pupil which is nearly as I can recall is about what it cost us in the latter 1960's. Considering the additional State requirements such as Kindergartens, special education, equal opportunities for female athletes, and the increasingly qualified staff moving to the higher side of the salary schedule, maybe the Board hasn't done too badly.

However, if you or the other taxpayers feel that we must make changes, I feel that this is not the

time to do it. Seventy-five percent of this budget is in salaries and is firmly fixed by contracts, which, by the way, were bitterly negotiated. Purchased Services, Supplies and Books are seventeen percent, Capital Outlay and other, less than three percent and Contingency and Unappropriated Ending Fund Balances, about six percent. A rejection of the levy now can only result in a disruption of this school year.

In less than 90 days the school staff will be preparing next year's budget and by January, the budget committee will be hard at work for 1987-88. This is the time to get your copy of the budget, attend the committee meetings and let your voice be heard. The School Board should welcome a clear consensus on which programs to cut and what is an acceptable level of funding.

Our students have always been at least a year ahead of those in metropolitan systems and along with our climate, geography, diversified agriculture, and stable industries are prime attractions for new people and investments. We can redesign the system but, let's not destroy it.

Sincerely,  
Don McElligott  
Ione, Oregon

## Hospital Notes

Pioneer Memorial Hospital reports admitting and discharging the following patients during the past week:

Dianne Boyce, Heppner - admitted August 27, discharged August 29;

Lloyd Sager, San Bernardino, California - admitted August 31, discharged September 1;

Ivy Lundgren, Heppner - admitted August 31, discharged September 1; and

Helen Salters, Ione - admitted August 31, discharged September 1.

The following patients were still receiving care Tuesday:

Edgar Murty, Lexington - admitted August 31; and

Rudy Bergstrom, Ione - admitted August 31.

## Justice Court

Morrow County Justice Court at the Courthouse in Heppner reports handling the following business during the past week:

Bruce Scott Wilcox, Hermiston - illegal "U" Turn, \$31 bail forfeited.

Sandra Kay Van Liew, Heppner - illegal "U" Turn, \$17 fine.

Henry Dallas Vazza, Boardman - Defective Equipment, \$13 fine.

Michael D. Graves - Disorderly Conduct, \$82 fine.

Leonard John Hanna - Disorderly Conduct, \$82 fine.

Winema Wiseman - Minor in Possession of alcohol, \$57 fine; Discharging a Firearm within the city limits, \$57 fine and two days in jail.

## Meeting Notices

### Port of Morrow

The regular monthly meeting for the Port of Morrow Commission Meeting is being re-scheduled to Wednesday, September 17 at 1 p.m.

### CowBelles

Morrow County CowBelles will meet September 8, 7:30 p.m. at Kate's Pizza for a business meeting. Topics for discussion will be fair committee reports; quarterly meeting in Baker September 17 and 18; beef education; and plans for annual Ag-Business Meeting and State Convention.

## Health Dept.

Friday September 5 - blood pressures and immunizations, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., Heppner office.

Tuesday, September 9 - blood pressures and immunizations, 1-4 p.m., Irrigon county offices.

Friday, September 12 - office closed.

Tuesday, September 16 - blood pressures and immunizations, 1:30-4 p.m., Boardman City Hall.

Wednesday, September 17 - blood pressures, 3-4 p.m., Ione Bank of Eastern Oregon kitchen.

Friday, September 19 - blood pressures and immunizations, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., Heppner office.

Tuesday, September 23 - blood pressures and immunizations, 1:30 - 4 p.m., Irrigon County offices.

Friday, September 26 - blood pressures and immunizations, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., Heppner office.

Flu vaccine is available for adults over 15 years old at a \$3 charge.

## Chamber Chatter

by Claudia Hughes  
Chamber Manager

Mark your calendars. Chamber programs during September offer a wide variety for you beginning with a youth presentation by Ken Curtis, September 9. Ken traveled to Thailand this summer and will share his experiences.

September 16, Tom Hampson, Director of Blue Mountain Community College Small Business Development Center, will begin a series of special interest to small businesses. He will offer quality programs responsive to community needs every third Tuesday.

Last Chamber meeting of the month, September 23, guest speaker will be Jeff Manley, Mental Health Director.

This promises to be an interesting month at Chamber. Guests and new members are most welcome. Chamber meets at the Elks at noon.

## School Lunch Menus

### HEPPNER HIGH SCHOOL

Monday, Sept. 8 - hot dogs, nachos, fruit, cookie and milk.

Tuesday, Sept. 9 - pizza, corn, salad, gelatin and milk.

Wednesday, Sept. 10 - macaroni and cheese, choice of vegetable, hot rolls, peaches and milk; or salad bar and milk.

Thursday, Sept. 11 - hot turkey sandwich, mashed potatoes, cheese and celery sticks, dessert and milk.

Friday, Sept. 12 - tomato soup, toasted cheese sandwich, salad, fruit crisp and milk.

## Correction

Three Heppner insurance companies: Turner Van Marter and Bryant, Ray Boyce Insurance, and Farmers Insurance; donated the cow milking buckles for the Friday night Morrow County rodeo. The companies were listed incorrectly in last week's paper.

**Congratulations!**  
**to Marie & Marvin**  
**on 11 years**  
**of blissful married life,**  
**September 6.**

*The MORROW COUNTY OPEN HORSE SHOW COMMITTEE wishes to thank all of you who helped make the horse show such a success!!*

Jim & Carleen West  
Charlie Daly  
Gary Forth  
Tim & Jan Coe  
Princess Sandy Wright  
Shelly Stroeber  
Mickey Madison  
Orval & Pauline Matheny  
Monte & Becky Evans  
Robin Jones  
Wayne & Susan Evans  
Tom Bedortha

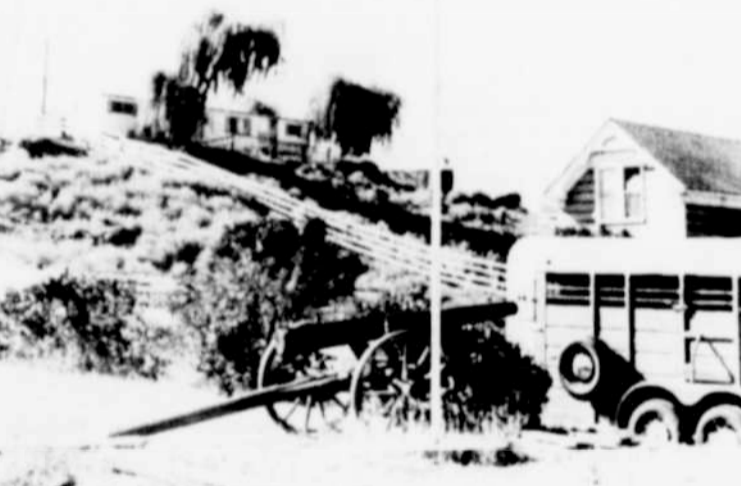
Ruth Nutting  
Al & Jean Brazell  
Don & Merlyn Robinson  
Queen Dawn Timms  
Princess Missy Schoonover  
Nancy Miller  
Sylvia Ladd  
Mike & Sally Ingraham  
Roger Johnson  
Lori Seitz  
Barry & Mary Ann Munkers  
Lori Bothwell

### HORSE SHOW DONORS

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Pendleton Grain Growers  
Jim & Carleen West  
Columbia Basin Electric Coop.  
Inland Empire Bank, Boardman  
Kegler's Sentry Market, Board.  
Stokes Landing, Irrigon  
HBarH, Hermiston  
Dobyn's Pest Control  
Bunchgrass Saloon  
Bank of Eastern Oregon, Ione  
Murray's Drug  
M&R Floor Covering  
Hop's Auto Body  
Les Schwab Tire Center  
Wheatland Insurance, Ione  
Wood's Western World, Herm.  
Pauline Matheny  
Turner, VanMarter & Bryant

Oregon Trail Veterinary Clinic  
Shoe Box  
Gardner's Men's Wear  
Ployhar Insurance  
Court Street Market  
Valerie Doherty Attorney  
Unocal  
Peterson's Jewellery  
Jim & Corky Norene  
Green Feed Store  
Dave & Joan Eckman  
Perry Allemen Hermiston  
Michael & Sally Ingraham  
Seitz Currin Aviation  
Lexington Machine Works  
First Interstate Bank, Heppner  
Morrow County Grain Growers  
Bank of Eastern Oregon, Hepp.  
Ruth Bergstrom Family  
Sweeney Mortuary  
Pettijohn's  
B&C Parts & Supply  
Jerry L. Johnston, DVM, Herm.  
Don & Merlyn Robinson  
Country Shears

*Congratulations to all those enthusiastic participants and thanks again to the sponsors and hardworking crew: A very special thanks to Cindee Henderson for all her time, experienced guidance and hard work as secretary. See you all next year.*



### Lexington man builds memorial

Tic Eng has built a flagpole and cannon from a telephone pole and wagon wheel. The memorial to two deceased sons, Louis Eng, Jr. and Shad Lee Eng, stands in the front yard of Eng's home on Blackhorse Canyon Road in Lexington.

Eng and his wife Connie (Papineau) have two sons living with them.

### Reluctant 'yes' vote for school budget

TO THE EDITOR:

I voted no in the first election, and have since been voting yes for the school budgets, reluctantly. The reason I say reluctantly is that I don't believe that the school administration is satisfactorily answering the questions of the citizens regarding reasons why our school district spends more money per pupil than almost any school district in the state. I am especially upset every time I read that our millage rate for schools is lower than anybody elses. That has nothing to do with the business of administering the schools. It just means we have a lot of assessed value in our district.

A second reason that I see the people voting against the school budget is that nothing has been trimmed from the budget in the last two elections (including the upcoming election). I feel that the citizens would be more inclined to approve the school budget if an across the board reduction of 1, 2, 3 or 4 percent were made in all services. Just returning the same figure to the voters points up, to me, an attitude that the

school board does not care about what the voters are saying.

My third point is that we've seen substantial increases in the school budget over the last three years during a time when all the rest of us are having to tighten our belts drastically to stay in business.

To sum up, I really believe that the school board needs to be more responsive to the citizens: to stand up and tell us why the budget must be at the amounts that they say it is. If we are paying a lot of money to keep the lone schools open, so be it. It is worth keeping those schools open, but let's not be ambiguous about the reason that that's adding cost to our budgets. I also might add that just recently the Pendleton Grain Growers' employees took a 10 percent cut to keep that organization viable in these pressing times. I feel that something of that nature would make a significant impact on the voters of the school district; if we had even a 1 percent reduction in payroll.

Yours very truly,  
(s) John A. Prag

### Keep schools off critical list

To the Editor:

The issue of the Morrow County school budget has reached a very serious stage. Morrow county schools will close in December, if the budget and serial levy do not pass in the September mail election. At this point, our educational system would be put on the critical list.

We have one of the lowest tax rates in the State of Oregon. How can we not afford to keep our schools open? The impact of a defeat could be devastating to our children and all other Morrow county citizens. Approximately, 260 employees would be laid-off. This could potentially start a snowball of disasters. How long will these people wait around for us to pass a budget? In time, businesses of Morrow county would be affected. Most of us cannot afford to educate our children in neighboring county schools. The cost of tuition in Gilliam county would be approximately \$6,000 plus and approximately \$3,000 plus in Umatilla county. Do you think your child can have a better education elsewhere for less tax dollars? We have a sound educational system, not perfect, but let's not injure what we have.

The residents of Morrow county should be trying to promote economic growth, not destroy it. If schools should close what do you think our changes are of promoting new industry in Morrow county? We

all must pull together for the survival and future growth of our children and our county.

Our school board and budget committee members have cut the budget twice. We will cripple our school system if we elect to cut more funds. Programs like transportation, athletics, school lunches, kindergarten, etc., will be affected, if not eliminated.

The current proposed budget and serial levy will give our children the best all around education they deserve and need. I strongly urge the residents of Morrow county to support their school system by voting yes on the budget and serial levy.

Let's not put Morrow county schools on the critical list.

(s) Colleen Nuttbrock  
Rt. 1, Box 51-B  
Boardman, Oregon 97818  
481-9237



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Look what's happening at the Elks:

Initiation  
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BINGO  
Starts Next Tuesday  
7:30 p.m.  
Open to the Public

Ladies Nite  
Thurs., Sept. 4  
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Heppner Elks 358

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