

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

The Heppner GAZETTE-TIMES
Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper

U.S.P.S. 240-420

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Morrow schools provide quality education

To the Editor:
Our children could not have had a better education than what they have had within the Morrow County School District.
Three of our children graduated from Heppner High School and the fourth wanted to. The Heppner schools provided the opportunities for our children to have a well-rounded background, making each child individually unique.

Our children and, we hope, many of yours have been proud of the quality education they received from the Morrow County schools.
The teachers and staff of Morrow County School District have worked hard to provide students with the necessary skills to succeed in this world of today. As a total staff they represent excellence in education.
(s)Bette and Ron Forrar Umatilla

Not paying too much for education

To the Editor:
As concerned parents with four children in the Morrow County schools, we would like to express our feelings about the present financial situation of the district and the attitudes that seem prevalent at this time.
In the 8½ years that our family has lived in Boardman, we have been very supportive and pleased with the quality of teachers, schools, and principals with which we have come in contact. We feel like our children have been exposed to a first rate school system. We never felt that we were paying too much for the schools and have always supported the budget. Compared to other districts we have been in, the tax amount paid to support the schools seemed very low for the quality of education which our children were receiving.
For the past year and a half, we have become more and more disappointed with the attitude of the voting public in parts of this district. It appears to us that some people no longer care about the quality of education which our young people obtain as long as it is cheap and doesn't raise taxes! Although the cost of living increases steadily, they feel that the cost of education should remain the same as it was 15 years ago. Nothing worth having costs the same now as it did 15 years ago! We think a good education is worth having. Obviously, many people don't agree with us because, no matter how much is cut from the school district budget, they won't vote to pass it. We realize that the economy is in a slump but we feel that the budget committee made every effort to cut any "unnecessary" items before the last election.
After cutting a total of \$750,000 from the budget, and putting portions of it before the voters five times, the school budget still has not passed. People have written letters to the editor, appeared at school board meetings, talked to anyone who will listen and still, some refuse to believe that we need to pass the budget so that our children may get the quality of education that they deserve. Now, the budget committee has come up with some final cuts which they have termed "non-mandated" items in our budget. We would like to suggest that these cuts are absolutely wrong. In order to make everyone realize the seriousness of this situation, cuts need to be made that will affect the majority of the voting adults, not the majority of the children in school.
By cutting four counselors at all levels, we are hurting the students who need help the most. There would be no crisis or guidance counseling, less career counseling, no help with scholarship applications (which is the only way some students will be able to attend college), and no one to "be there" for troubled kids whose parents aren't around, don't care, or are too busy. Cutting counselors would not affect the voting adults until it is too late for some of these kids.
By cutting six librarians, we are

destroying the basis for a good education. The quality of a school can be measured by the quality of its library. Without a librarian, the library would be of little use to the students as the teachers and principal certainly would not have the time to order new materials, shelve books, work with computers, teach research techniques or all of the other many things that a librarian does.
By cutting 12.3 aides, we are putting 461.25 hours per week of work and duties back on the teachers who already work more than the required eight hours per day. They would not have the time that they need to prepare for classes because they would be doing recess duties, running off thousands of papers, correcting, transferring records, filing, recording scores, small-group instruction, and all of the many other things that aides do so well. The bottom line is, the teachers would be burned out and the children would again suffer. Some teachers would choose not to work in this district under these conditions and we would be hard put to hire quality replacements with our "tentative" budget situation. The voting adults would not be touched.
We do not understand why the decision was made to cut only the elementary art and music specialists and not the P.E. specialist. If cutting specialists was decided upon as a way to decrease costs, then it should be an across the board, non-selective cut. Actually, we don't want to see cuts made in these areas at all, if possible.
If it comes down to making drastic cuts in order to get the uncaring public to pass the budget, then we feel the cuts should be made where they will be felt by the adults as well as the children. We suggest that the big three items on the "non-mandated" list are where the cuts be made, if necessary: co-curricular activities (athletics, fieldtrips, outdoor school, extended duty contracts, annual extra duty contracts)-\$100,908. Food services program-\$103,732 and transportation-\$167,854. This totals \$372,494, somewhat more than the \$366,000 needed in order to run the schools as they are until the end of the year. Cutting these items would be noticed by the public voters! We don't think too many adults want to see the sports programs go, haul their children to and from school, or take the food out of the mouths of some children who depend on the lunch they get as their main meal of the day. Maybe facing these cuts, the voters would say, "I really do care and I guess the levy is necessary in order to give these students the kind of education which I was fortunate enough to get and which they deserve."
Please think about the things we have written and put yourself in the shoes of the students and teachers. Make an effort to attend the next School Board meeting on December 15. Support your schools and you'll be supporting the future.
We care,
(s)John and Jeanette Jensen Boardman

Letters to the Editor

Watch for unlawful currency

To the Editor:
While traveling through Heppner during the Thanksgiving holiday weekend, we purchased some supplies from one of the local businesses. Received in change on Saturday, November 29, 1986, was a \$5 bill which was later discovered to have stamped on the back the following: "WARNING! This Note Is Not Lawful Money nor is it redeemable in lawful money, per: Article I, Section 10, U.S. Constitution."

I hope you will notify the residents of the area so that they can be aware of this "currency" floating around. This is the holiday season and a few seconds of closer examination of change received may save some even greater monetary loss. You do not get reimbursed for counterfeit money you may receive so please take the extra time and have a happier holiday season.

Sincerely,
(s) Theresa Morris
P.O. Box 827
Warm Springs, OR 97761

County rightfully proud of its schools

To the Editor:
We work with the children of Morrow County and we are concerned about what is happening with our school programs. Another budget failure will set us back to an almost irreversible situation. It could take years to get back what we would lose.
Morrow County is proud of its schools and rightfully so. Do we really want to give up what we have thoughtfully and carefully developed through the years? Special programs and teachers trained in these fields will be cut. This will mean a curriculum loss in library skills, music, art and counseling.
Counseling, alone, is an area that we can not afford to cut. Where will the students go for needed special help—i.e., scholarship applications and confidential guidance. This means that parents and classroom teachers will have to handle situations without necessary training and resources.
An additional concern is the loss of at least 25 staff positions. This will necessitate the reassignment of personnel at mid-year due to seniority status and certification. This would mean a shift in classroom assignments resulting in a change in teachers for many students. This will definitely affect their learning environment and progress.
Our vote does count. Let's be sure we vote for what we are willing to live with now and in the future.
Start the New Year off right by supporting education in Morrow

County and voting "yes" on January 13, 1987.

- (s) Don Cole
- Lilly Wilson
- Carol Faith-Peterson
- Cherry Webber
- Karen Clough
- Pat Edmundson
- Lea Calvert
- Joy Krein
- Karen Dubuque
- Cara Costa
- Mary Haguewood
- Doug Sheirbon
- Bob Briggs
- Phyllis Payne
- Tim Birkby
- Dave Gunderson
- Brenda Weygandt
- Alan Beck
- Anne Metz
- Sarah Carlson
- Karen Beck
- Terri Gentry
- Jean Strange
- Kay Chinen
- Robert Isted
- Kitty Bredemeier
- Linda Panter
- Linda Shaw
- Lisa Nelson
- Ron Forrar
- Linda Padberg
- Nancy McElhany
- Ginger Bowman
- Lauri Hire
- Marlene Mitchell
- Betty Christman
- Judy Aaron
- Faye Seitz
- Shawna Wilson
- Harry Green
- Jean Adams
- Dan Van Liew

Support schools and health services

To the Editor:
When I moved to Morrow County last year, two factors which helped me decide on the move were the presence of good health care and a stable school system.
I do not know what will come of the present plan to form a health care district in the north end of the county. I only hope that our present health services survive relatively

I also do not know whether the school serial levy will pass or fail next month. I hope it passes, there is no excuse for voting it down.
I will do what I can to save our present health care services and to see the school serial levy passed. I urge everyone else in Morrow County to do the same.

(s) Fred Lundin
Heppner

New Year's Eve Party at Charlie's
Dance to the Music of
Go For Country-Go For Rock
Starts 10 p.m., ends sometime next year
Enjoy 25¢ Beverages
Proceeds go to the Heppner Volunteer Fire Dept.

Levi's
QUALITY NEVER GOES OUT OF STYLE

Christmas For Him



Levi's FOR men

Classic Styling
Picture Levi's® classic styling, tailored to fit a man's body and you know what Levi's® For Men Jeans are all about.



SLIP INTO A CLASSIC.
The Levi's® Shirt, always tops. Featured in a great selection of color-coordinated plaids.

Free Gift Wrap
Free Christmas Candy
"The sweetest place in town to shop!"

Gardner's MEN'S WEAR

193 N. Main St. 676-9218 Heppner

Keeping Trojan in business

To the Editor:
By defeating Ballot Measure 14, voters chose to keep the 400 people at the Trojan Nuclear Plant in business producing reliable, low-cost electricity for Oregon.
We are proud of Trojan's 10-year performance record and welcome

visitors. People interested in touring the plant can get information by calling 226-8510 or by writing me at the Trojan Visitors Information Center, Rainier, Oregon 97048.
Sincerely,
(s) W.S. Orser, General Manager
Trojan Nuclear Plant

Keep Hospital in Heppner

To the Editor:
As a recent patient in Pioneer Memorial Hospital I have only praise for the cleanliness and the friendly personnel. You know they

all care. This community should count its blessings that we have a hospital of this caliber.
Please, let's do all we can to keep the hospital in Heppner.
(s) Hazel Mahoney
Heppner

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

GAIL HUGHES

From Your Secret Sister