

Letters to the Editor

Levy failure will affect entire county

To all eligible Morrow County voters:

It's not only the futures of the students, but also the future of this community that will be affected if the school budget levy fails again. Much of the money put into the Morrow County school system generates itself back into the county. For example, some money goes to teachers' salaries. These salaries are spent within the communities on utilities, food, housing, and clothing. This money, recycled back into the communities, promotes the growth and development of industry and tourism in Morrow County.

Also, if the budget fails, the Morrow County schools will lose their accreditation. The loss of librarians and counselors will mean that the schools will be unaccredited. Students will not easily be able to transfer from school to school, district to district, or even college without interviews and the possibility of losing credits. The cost of college is already high, but when compounded with re-taking courses due to loss of accreditation, many more students who wish to further their education will be unable to do so.

If you are not pleased with the cuts being made if the levy fails, don't

vote no; vote yes. Your no vote won't change what is being cut; it will just make it final. There are ways to get cuts made, but this is not one of them. If the budget fails, many students will leave the county to find their education and sports elsewhere. Morrow County is seeking larger populations, but it will be losing families instead of gaining. Families with children won't want to live in Morrow County if the school system is unaccredited and there are no extracurricular activities.

It is hard for us students to sit and watch our parents and others we don't even know decide our future for us. Perhaps you think you're doing the right thing by voting no, and maybe if it only affected you it would be right. But in the eyes of 1,791 Morrow County students, your no vote affects much more than your taxes. It will affect the students' school years and, ultimately, their future.

Please vote yes on Jan. 13. Do it for the future of Morrow County.

Ione Senior Class,
(s) Candi Rudisill
Deena Hams
Patty McElligott
Chris Rea
Kierin Doherty
Robert Adams

Continued 'no' vote will please no one

To the Editor:

It is possible that almost everyone and every program in Morrow County, and the state, has problems these days. But a meat-ax approach to our school's budget will solve

nothing.

The end results of a continuing "no" vote would please no one.

Sincerely,
(s) Meg Murray

School budget cuts may hurt county

To the Editor:

As the School Board makes budget cuts and extra-curricular activities for students dwindle, I would like the voters in Morrow County to consider two points.

1) Without school sponsored activities, students may make up their own after school activities, and not necessarily positive ones. Any drug, alcohol, vandalism, or moral problems we may have now could explode to epidemic proportions.

2) Realistically, some students may keep up with studies and school-work to earn just enough of a grade-point so they can play athletics. Without that incentive, grade-points could suffer.

Personally, I do believe in conservative school financing. But I do think that Morrow County may be hurting itself in the long run.

Sincerely,
(s) Kay Proctor
Heppner OR 97836

Schools are a valuable resource

To the Editor:

Although I no longer live in Morrow County, I have remained close to those people back in the county who played major roles in my development as a person. These people include my parents, friends I went to school with and the people who educated me in school subjects, in sports and, ultimately, in life.

When I left Riverside High in 1981, it was not apparent to me the quality of education I had received. But as I progressed through college I became more impressed with my alma mater, its faculty and staff. Morrow County currently provides one of the best educations available in Oregon public schools. The teaching staffs, from the principals down to the aides are highly qualified. To lose this distinction as a great public school system would damage the county in other areas, such as economic development and growth. There is no doubt that the current school system is a valuable resource to the area.

Just as important as retaining the quality of the school system is the continued success of athletic programs in the area. I am not speaking only for myself when I say that high school sports made a difference in my life. Sports at the high school level are valuable for the develop-

ment and understanding of what life is about. Sports teach lessons about life: teamwork, discipline, graciousness, humbleness and competitiveness.

But the most significant contribution of athletics is the development of community pride and spirit. School athletics allow each community to have an individuality, yet the competition brings the communities closer together in a spirit of friendly rivalry. Without athletics, our towns would become isolated burbs. Athletics are as important to the community as they are to the students.

In closing, let me say that I would not trade my education or athletic career at A.C. Houghton and Riverside high with anyone from any public or private school in this state. I came out ready for college and life and feel that the success I have now achieved in Portland is due in large part to my upbringing and education.

For the sake of present and future students, I would urge the people of Morrow County to do everything in their power to maintain the present school system and athletics programs. To lose them would be the loss of a valuable resource.

(s) Lerry C. Wilson
Riverside Class of 1981
Portland, Oregon

Put Heppner on map

To the Editor:

I would like to share a letter with you from Mauragrace Healey, Massachusetts, who won Heppner's motto contest. She wrote three pages of glowing praise about our town and the many recreational opportunities for tourists. "Heppner has it all", she said and her entry was Heppner: Oregon's Gateway To The Blue Mountains. Here is her response to winning:

(s) Claudia Hughes
Heppner

Sirs:

My mail finally caught up with me today in southern Illinois and I was pleased to read in the Heppner Gazette-Times that your committee selected my motto for Heppner.

I'm glad to be able to make a contribution to Heppner's growth and hope this motto will serve its purpose

well. I would like to contribute the \$50 gift certificate to the folks working on creating a senior citizens center in the future Senior Citizens housing (presently the Heppner Hotel). I'm sure they can put the money to good use in choosing needed items for the proposed center.

I feel this is an extremely worthy cause and since I won't be in Heppner until next May, could you please see to it that the gift certificate reaches the people in charge of this project? I wish I could do more.

Again, I'm glad I could help you in your effort to put Heppner on the map. Good luck!

Sincerely,

(s) Mauragrace Healey
Millers Falls, Mass

Annual Toy Dance Revived
"Help our needy Morrow County Children"
Fri. & Sat., Dec. 19 & 20
ADMISSION:
1 New or Like-New Toy
Chuck & Sandy ask you please, join us and give our Morrow County kids a great Christmas.

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YOU DO NOT NEED TO ATTEND TO DONATE

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CHARLIE'S PIZZA & VIDEO WORLD
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503-676-5210

1	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
9	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
8	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
7				

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Gardner's Men's Wear
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Holy Holiday
Let us give thanks for the wonderful Gift of Christmas.

BRISTOW'S MARKET
Don Bristow, John Bristow, Mardean Patton, Linda Haguewood, Arlynda Gates, and Marie Rudisill