

## Letters to the Editor

### Colorful Christmas story

To the Editor:  
I wanted to share with you and your readers a truly colorful Christmas story.  
This is addressed to the person or persons who placed red crayon in the laundry I was drying on the evening of the 16th at Evergreen Terrace Apartments. I would like to wish you

a very Merry Christmas and hope that this little criminal mischief of yours has pleased you. Needless to say, it ruined my entire load of wash which included my work uniforms and my daughters winter coat.  
Happy Holidays.

(s) R. Hill  
Heppner

### School budget/medical district turmoil could sprout seeds of division

To the citizens of Morrow County:  
The turmoil and potential hardship over an unresolved school budget and program and a split medical district could sprout seeds of division and bitterness not resolved for decades. One wiser than Abraham Lincoln warned a house divided against itself would never stand (Matthew 12:25). A county divided over medical care and school programs and financing will never endure. This Christmas season we need to remember Jesus Christ came into the world to bring peace, reconciliation, and good will toward men. We need that spirit of good will, understanding, and a desire to bring reconciliation to restore harmony in our county.

In regards to our schools, no one wants to see our youth deprived of quality education or eliminate quality teachers from our schools. The majority of voters that have rejected the school budget (five times) are not uncaring, selfish, or vindictive. For the most part they are sincere, hard working folks that are being asked to support more and more on less and less. Our agriculture, cattle, and lumber concerns are struggling with rising overheads, dropping prices and world surpluses. Our mill employees have taken a significant pay cut. Workers at the coal fired plant have taken a three year pay freeze and cut in fringe benefits. Our cattle ranchers receive no fringe benefits or overtime yet they are squeezed tighter and tighter with rising overheads but no increase in cattle prices. Many local businesses are cutting employees and inventories and some are closing. Nationwide our economy is in trouble. Our nation is bankrupt with a rising national debt which our children will be strapped with because we do not have the fortitude to cut back and accept a lifestyle our nation can afford. Our schools are in trouble because they are attempting to maintain a style and pay raises out of harmony with the rest of the county.

We need a spirit of understanding and good will toward the plight of the tax payers. If money were the solution for our schools (260 billion

was spent in 1985) then we would be the most literate, educated people on the earth. Instead the competency of graduating seniors continues to decline (since 1964 the year they took prayer out of the public school). Our national literacy is a disgrace with quotes of up to 70 million Americans with reading deficiencies. We need a change in priorities in the direction of our schools if we are going to bring reconciliation and harmony to our county. Some steps that would restore confidence and quality to our schools are: 1) Restore discipline instead of do your own thing and responsibility instead of rights. 2) Restore the paddle back into the hands of the classroom teacher and/or the principal. 3) Return old-fashioned honoring of God, family and country instead of honoring kids rights, pre-marital sex, gay rights, communism, abortion and me-first. 4) Return to teaching and practicing right and wrong (its in that banned book, the Bible) instead of everything is relative and everything is right as long as you don't get caught. 5) Return to teaching values, morals, skills, as well as reading and writing instead of seeing education as molding and therapy. 6) Return to sounding out words instead of modern look-say methodology so our kids can read when they finish 12 years of school. 7) Return to teaching God created the heavens and earth as well as the modern theory of evolution. We do not all believe that our forefathers were apes and we evolved from a murky pool.

We need to see some signs the administration has an understanding and empathy for the plight and concerns of the public. After five no votes it is time to make some changes and seek reconciliation and understanding with the voters. I believe they truly care about our schools and our teachers and most of all our kids.

In regards to a proposed split county medical district: Nothing could undermine the economic viability and social well-being of this county more than a split over medical care. The precedent established would continue to erode the social, educational, financial, and governmental foundations until the original mistake was repudiated. Any community could in like manner separate whenever the educational, medical, governmental, or social programs were not to their liking. Irrigon could send the kids to Umatilla (it is closer than Boardman). Ione could pull out to save their school. Heppner could pull out to fence off their mountains (i.e. fire wood, elk, deer, fish, etc.) from all outsiders. It is already happening with "pay hunting". Where would it all end?

Again, what we need is a spirit of good will, understanding and reconciliation. The record strongly suggests the medical needs of the north end of the county have not been adequately met. They need and deserve understanding and resultant changes.

I appeal to the citizens of the North end. Do you want equitable and commendable medical care and support or do you want a split medical county? You have a legitimate complaint and deserve to have your needs met. Please work within the system. Don't break it down to reach your own ends. The precedent you

establish may come back to haunt you. Some appear to wield words of division and hostility instead of legitimately desiring quality medical care. Could one conscientiously desiring quality medical care for their community deny it to another? To divide the county over medical financing would no doubt cause the Pioneer Memorial Hospital to close causing real financial and medical hardship upon the citizens of the south end. In like manner if the North end has been denied equitable medical care then let us employ the county officials to admit it, rectify it and reconcile this break with our brethren. Let us allow a spirit of good will and understanding and unity to prevail.

In conclusion, especially at Christmas time, we have a wonder-

ful opportunity to allow God's gift to mankind, Jesus Christ, to bring reconciliation to our county and our hearts. Christmas is more than a holiday, a school break, and a time to exchange gifts. It is a reminder that God so loved the world that he gave his only Son to bring eternal life and reconciliation between God and man. That source of reconciliation, Jesus Christ, is our hope. He truly cares about our schools, our county, our families and our personal needs and cares. Let us renew our faith and trust in Him, accept His gift of life everlasting and forgiveness of sin and allow Him to bring reconciliation to our county, our schools, and our hearts this Christmas.

Sincerely,  
(s) Rev. Stuart and Julie Dick

### Check voting status, register

To Friends and Fellow Citizens of Morrow County:

Efforts are underway to insure the registration by 5 p.m. December 24, of every person eligible to vote in Morrow County. We support these efforts and urge everyone to check out their voter status.

We especially urge each person to review the issues relating to the school, and to go to the polling places to vote on January 13, 1987.

Sincerely yours,  
Members of the South Morrow County Ministerial Association  
(s) Don Reiber, Pastor, Seventh-Day Adventist Church

Don Boyce, Pastor, United Methodist Church  
Fr. Edward Receconi, O.S.B., Pastor, St. Patrick's  
Vaughn Gossman, Pastor, Church of the Nazarene  
Rick Evenson, Pastor, Hope-Valby Lutheran Parish  
Matthew Nelson, Pastor, United Church of Christ, Ione  
Glenn Anderson, Pastor, Baptist Church, Lexington  
George Izzett, Pastor, All Saints Episcopal Church  
Doug Akeson, Pastor, Christian Life Center  
Grace Drake, United Methodist, Retired

### Voters from both ends of county said 'No' to higher taxes

To the Editor:  
It has been interesting to see that many from the Boardman-Irrigon area keep insisting that the people from this end of the County are keeping them from having things they want here.

Did they bother to look at the November election results to see that many there did not want higher taxes.

to increase the Morrow County tax base: Boardman voted 306 for to 373 against; Irrigon voted 247 for to 489 against;

to increase the school district tax base: Boardman voted 338 for to 342 against; Irrigon voted 276 for to 464 against;

School district three year operating serial levy: Boardman voter 379 for to 300 against; Irrigon voted 307 for to 432 against.

I feel that we have some school board members, school administrators, teachers and parents adding things that aren't necessary for the basic education of Morrow County students. Just an example or two: why three volleyball teams at Heppner, a proposed animal tilt table

at Riverside High School in Boardman, and Special Resource Centers at Boardman and Irrigon schools.

It was not necessary to have all these extras for a boy from the old Lexington schools, Danny Dinges, to go on to higher education and become head of a banking system of Oregon, nor, for a boy from an old county and Ione schools, Elwayne Lieutallen, to go on and become the Chancellor of Higher Education in Oregon.

When I speak about schools, I had a background of many years in education. A graduate of the old Heppner High School, I had no trouble getting into higher education, and went to Southern Oregon to teach in a high school (it is an AAA school district with a senior high, junior high and five elementary schools. After marriage to a man who served 15 years on the school board, our five children graduated and went on to higher education. With my family in school, I sub-taught for 20 years from first grade through high school, including the ag dept.

(s) Irene Anhorn

### Soroptimists name winners



Winners of the Soroptimist coloring contest were back row from left: Kari Oglesbee second place, Amber Rollis first place Jessica Summer first place, Daniel Burnside third place, Tina Chinen second place; front row from left: Jessica Keersmaker third place Jennifer Maddison first place Jill Barber second place and Jaclynn Hughes first place.

### CPR class offered

A CPR class will be offered beginning at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 6 at the Ione High School cafeteria. The class, sponsored by the Ione Extension and Lions clubs will be taught by Loa Stevens. The class will be limited to 12 people. To register, call 422-7127 after 5 p.m. Fee is \$5.

### New 4-H club beginning

One of the newer Oregon 4-H projects is Fiber Arts. It is tailor-made for those interested in the creative use of materials whether making a quilt, weaving, macrame, or other articles utilizing fibers and fabrics.

A leader is now ready to start with a group of beginners interested in learning together creatively using fibers and fabrics. First meeting will

be soon after January 1.  
Pat Lundin, Heppner (phone 676-9632) will offer the project to boys and girls interested in joining a fiber arts club. Call her or the Extension Office 676-9642 for information on joining.

### Community invited to special service

A special invitation is extended to the community to attend the traditional candlelight Christmas Eve Service at All Saints' Episcopal Church this evening at 11 p.m. Parents of small children are invited to bring their children dressed for bed if they desire. There will be special music by the church choir. There will be the singing of the familiar Christmas carols and hymns and the Festive Choral Holy Communion.

On Christmas Day there will be a service of Holy Communion at 10 a.m.

Enjoy this holiday to the fullest!

**BUCKNUMS TAVERN**  
Doug & Kathleen

**JOYOUS NOEL**

SHOE BOX

MERRY CHRISTMAS

**JERRY'S BARBER SHOP**

Happy New Year

**We're Laying out the Red Carpet for Santa**

...and rolling out the red, holiday carpet for all our V.I.P.s (Very Important Patrons) like you! Have a merry Christmas!

**M&R Floor Covering**

**It's Christmas!**

Cheers to all our friends! Hope you have the best holiday ever!

**Ekstrom Farm Chemicals**

**SEASON'S GREETINGS**

Wishing you and yours a premium holiday in every way! It's a pleasure to do business with you.

**TURNER VAN MARTER & BRYANT INSURANCE**  
VanMarter & Kahl Insurance

**O Holy Child**  
Sincere Christmas thoughts to all, along with our thanks for your continued good faith.

**Sears**

The warmth of a crackling fire, the aroma of a Christmas tree, the taste of a candy cane, the joy on the face of a child. Love to all this season, and throughout the year.

**Kuhn & Spicer & Staff**

**It's Christmas**

JOY HOPE LOVE PEACE

from all of us at Bud's Pub