

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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Joyce Hughes ..... Office Manager, Typesetting  
Sandy Holtz ..... News Editor  
Marie Struthers ..... Graphics Department  
Gail Papineau ..... Graphics, Distribution  
Eileen Sailing ..... Proof Reading

David and April Sykes, Publishers

## Letters to the Editor

### Commends reading program

To the Editor:

We often acknowledge the children in our community for their special sports efforts. The R & W Drive-in has chosen to reward students for academic accomplishments. We would like to commend Tom and Helen Riehl for their innovative program.

Heppner Elementary students were rewarded with meals and treats from the R&W for reading books. Students had their choice of several items from the menu.

The students were divided accord-

ing to their abilities. Those in advanced reading groups had to read more pages than students in less advanced reading groups. Reading is such an essential skill, it is great to see someone encourage this skill by rewarding kids with tangible things. We feel Tom and Helen deserve a big thank-you from the Heppner Elementary students and their parents.

(s) Ann Spicer and  
(s) Chloe Pearson  
Heppner

### Encourage 'yes' vote for schools

To the Editor:

Once again I would like to encourage the people of Morrow County to join me in saying "yes" to the proposed school budget. This endorsement does not mean that I believe this budget is perfect. In fact, I believe that in fear of another round of bitter budget fights the School Board has not asked for enough funds to meet the needs of our schools. The cuts and deferrals made in facility maintenance and capital replacement will surely haunt us the years ahead. This budget deserves to be passed because it is responsive to the will of the voters expressed several times this past year.

Some may be counting on the state's "safety net" proposal as an answer to rising school costs. For a district like ours with an inadequate

tax base, increasing and shifting student population, extra transportation needs, and declining non-tax revenues, this "net" will be a noose if it goes into effect. Either a net or a noose will do the job of keeping us from hitting the ground, but the long-term results would be quite different. It is obvious that this measure will not relieve Morrow County voters of our obligation to vote responsibly to maintain quality schools.

Let's keep Morrow County off this year's list of financially troubled school districts. Let's give our teachers, school employees, children and parents some peace of mind by passing this school budget on Tuesday.

Sincerely,  
(s) Rev. Steven Rowe  
Boardman

### Keep high quality education

To the Editor:

We the voters of Morrow County will vote on the 1987-88 school budget on May 19. I urge you to vote yes.

The budget process has been completed with these economic times in mind. The passage of this budget will help keep the quality of education of our children at a high level. It will also maintain stability in the county.

Please vote "yes" on May 19 for Morrow County Schools.

(s) Dean Robinson  
chairman Heppner-Lexington Advisory Committee

### Would recommend pool manager to anyone

To the Editor:

In view of the recent complaints about the pool, we feel compelled to give moral support to Margaret Kincaid, who has been the manager of the Heppner Municipal pool for several years.

She has had many compliments over the years and many mothers felt

she was proficient in giving swim lessons.

In our estimation she has done a fine job, kept the lines of communication open between her and City Hall, is dependable and we would recommend her to anyone.

(s) Marshall Lovgren  
City Administrator  
(s) Mary Jean McCabe  
City Treasurer

### Safety Net will only hide pain

To the Editor:

Please vote "no" on the Safety Net Proposal. Slapping a Band-aid on our wound without treating the affliction may hide our pain from Wall Street but will force this festering infection to grow deeper thus guaranteeing to cripple some of us.

The Safety Net looks good on the surface, but take a close look at its effects. Proponents say it will keep our schools open, but at what price? 171 districts will be able to add 6% to their budgets. Those of us who live in those less fortunate districts without adequate tax bases like Sandy and Estacada have been making severe cuts already. In 1989 our legislature has mandated that we must provide kindergartens. That will force us to cut another 1/5 from our budgets. It can't be done without drastically affecting the quality of education in our districts. Right now we spend less per student and yet pay more in taxes than most other districts. Since we are poor in

business, industry and state owned forestry land, (the components that make school taxes less for homeowners) those of us in areas who can least afford it must pay the most. School taxes can vary statewide from \$253 to \$2,694 on a \$100,000 home. Because this system is so unequal and unfair our children will not have the same educational opportunities as other children.

There are ways to change this system. There are ways to insure that every child has an equal opportunity for a quality education.

A vote for the Safety Net is not a vote to keep schools open, but a vote to insure that the quality of education in Oregon depends on where you live.

Those of us on the Save Our Schools (S.O.S.) committee urge you to vote "no."

(s) Connie Whitlock  
Secretary S.O.S.  
Sandy, Or. 97055

### School budget already lean

To the Editor:

The comment that I hear more than any other about budget submissions for public institutions is "I know there is fat in the budget so I always vote no the first time." In the past that attitude probably has been justified from time to time. The trick is to determine when it is justified and when it is not.

If you are one of those who feel that a "no" vote on the first round is a good policy, I urge you to obtain and examine a copy of the proposed Morrow County School budget for 1987-88. You will readily see that the budget is already lean. In order to hold the total down, the district is cutting teaching and aide positions in lone and Heppner for transfer to the Boardman schools to accommodate the over-crowding in that area. The district is transferring the positions rather than hiring new because of problems encountered with passing past budget proposals.

You will also learn, if you persist, that if the budget fails to pass the first cuts will be in the non-mandated (not required by State law) programs. Most likely the programs to be affected, if not cut altogether, will be: 1) supplies and books, supporting non-mandated programs; 2) co-curricular activities, i.e. athletics, field trips, extended contract days, including ag teachers, art teachers, librarians, shop teachers, etc.; 3) extra duty contracts; 4) aides; 5) elementary art; 6) food services; 7) elementary music; 8) transportation, buses; 9) alternative school; 10) certificated media specialists; 11) counselors; and 12) kindergarten. This is not necessarily in the order the cuts will be taken.

These are the facts of life, and while they are threatening, they are not intended as a threat. The budget is tight and if it does not pass we will have inadequate monies for all programs, and we will be into program cuts immediately. I personally feel

### Bowling coach will be missed

To the Editor:

Sam Worley had the patience of a saint when it came to working with children.

Since Sam arrived two years ago, he had organized two Junior Leagues and one Junior Adult League. It wasn't just bowling that they were taught, but sportsmanship, courtesy, co-operation and the knowledge of the sport itself.

Life was not always easy for Sam where he grew up in California, and going to the State Bowling Tournament was a highlight in his young life and something that he often talked about. He was the main driving force behind the fund raising projects for the State bowling tournament as he wanted every child to go and many would not be able to afford it on their own. He got children, parents and businesses alike to par-

ticipate in the fund raising which included, bottle and can drives, food sales, auctions, and outright donations.

In 1986 he rented a motor home in Portland and took 24 young people and several chaperone's to Grants Pass to participate in the State Bowling Tournament where the youngsters brought back 44 trophies for their efforts. In 1987 he took 40 children to Albany on a rented bus where they did themselves proud again.

Sam Worley loved the sport of Bowling and he helped many adults with their game. But the young people were his special interest and those youngsters who were fortunate enough to participate in his program were the real winners.

(s) Doug and Sonia Smith  
and the crew at Heppner Bowl

### Schools not paying coach's fare to China

To the Editor:

The rumor circulating in this community that the Morrow County School District is paying for my forthcoming trip to China is completely false.

Amateur Sports Development, non-profit foundation promoting education and cultural experience through international sports, is responsible for my selection as a

coach and provides my transportation, lodging and meals. This trip occurs two weeks after the closure of school for summer vacation and I am responsible for paying my own personal expenses.

Sincerely  
(s) Dale Conklin  
PO BOX 144  
Heppner, Or 97836

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