

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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## Letters to the Editor

### MCEA bargaining members makes response to news release

To the Editor:

Recently, I was asked why Morrow County teachers had not responded to Dwayne Carroll's latest news release regarding teacher contract negotiations. My response was that it has never been the intention or desire of Morrow County Education Association (MCEA) to negotiate through the newspapers, since it is easy to misinterpret the information. However, after much consideration, I do feel that several items from Mr. Carroll's news release need to be addressed.

When Mr. Carroll stated that MCEA is "demanding up to a 22% (salary) increase in three years" and that "the district fully pay for all (teacher insurance) benefits", he neglected to report that on July 15, MCEA accepted the recommendations made by an impartial factfinder. This means that after four months of negotiations the School Board and teachers could not come to an agreement so they entered mediation. When the state appointed mediator was unable to settle a contract, a factfinder came to Morrow County to hear the evidence and arguments of the school board and MCEA. His recommendations for salary and were as follows:

- 1) 1988-89 school year: 4.5% salary increase;
- 2) 1989-90 school year: Cost of living increase minus 1.5% with a minimum 3.5% and a maximum 7%;
- 3) 1990-91 school year: Cost of living increase, minus 1.5% with a minimum 4% and a maximum 8%.

Regarding insurance, the factfinder recommended a percentage cap instead of the dollar cap the school board proposed. The factfinder suggested the school district and teachers share the cost of insurance premiums with the district paying 95% and the teachers paying 5%. This recommendation is a benefit that the teachers have had for the last three years.

### Boardman resident has idea for relief of boredom

To the Editor:

I'm a resident in Boardman. And along with many other people, we all feel bored. The reason for this is we have nothing to do. No place to go.

I am not totally telling the truth. We do have a Peetsa Corner, a couple food marts, four gas stations, the main Sentry store, Christi's Floral Shop and the Holy Roller's; but that's too small. There is one other thing called Rat Stomping, but that's pretty gruesome.

I also speak for the college students. When they return home from college, they're pretty bored after visiting and all. I, for example have two sisters: Jennifer Beth, 19 and Lisa, 18. They both have the virus of Boardman-itis. So they had to travel 25 miles, to Hermiston, to

shop. That's a waste of money and gas to travel.

I understand we don't have a lot of money. But what if we were to save up, then use the money to put in a public pool, theater, or community center. Then there would be a new business for the town and young people. That would keep people in Boardman, instead of traveling a long way to other towns and cities wasting money. It would also give young people something to do.

I really think my idea might be good for Irrigon too. But it seems that they have a lot of things on hand already so?

Well I think I've said my mind now. Thank you.

Cordially yours  
(s) Laura L. Jurney

Although the teachers accepted the factfinder's recommendations, the school board rejected it. Whenever one or both parties reject these recommendations the typical procedure is for both parties to go back to their original proposals and return to the bargaining table to resume talks.

It becomes apparent that by accepting the factfinder's recommendations Morrow County teachers are only trying to keep current with the cost of living. If the teachers were to accept the school board's present offer of 2% salary increase over three years and a dollar cap on their insurance, their monthly net (take-home) pay would be less than it was last year. Due to the continuing increase in insurance costs, this cut in pay would only become greater with each year of the contract. In other words, the teachers in Morrow County would earn less money each year of the contract.

Another comment Mr. Carroll made was regarding the teachers' previously salary increases. Perhaps he needs to be reminded why the most recent contract provided "handsome raises" to the teachers. When the base salary increased less than 3% over the 1982-85 school years, Morrow County became the third lowest paid school district in Oregon. The School Board approved "handsome raises" in 1985-88 to attract and maintain quality educators in the district and to bring teachers salaries up to the state average.

After 15 months of negotiating the teachers of Morrow County are not "demanding" salary increases up to 22% nor full payment of their insurance. They are, however, demanding that the school board meet with them and bargain in good faith.

Sincerely,  
(s) Carol Faith-Peterson  
Speech Clinician  
Morrow County Education Association Bargaining Team Member

Survivors include two daughters, Merna M. Bonifer of Pendleton and Leola F. Bailey of Klamath Falls; a son, Orville William Lane of Walla Walla; eight step-children; a brother Arnold Ross Lane of Crescent; eight grandchildren and several step-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by one brother, Lloyd Lane.

Burns Mortuary of Pendleton was in charge of arrangements.

## Are Morrow County's kids "worth it"?

To the Editor:

The teachers and school board of the Morrow County School district have been in negotiations for the past year. I have always understood "negotiating" to mean that both sides give and take so that an agreement may be reached.

This has not been the case. One unsettled issue is the salary. The school board still is sitting on its same offer, zero percent the first year. The teachers did begin asking for a seven percent increase, but since that offer made a couple proposals with lower increases. At the present time they have accepted a report done by the Factfinder. The Factfinder is a party from outside both groups that is appointed by the state to study the economic situation of the area and surrounding school districts to "find" a reasonable offer.

I am not sure if the public, or residents of Morrow County are aware of the situation the teachers are in at this point. They have started the school year and completed the second quarter, still with no contract. The school board has only said that it has the "unwillingness" to pay. (The Factfinder did state in his report, that money in the school district is available for a salary increase.)

What is the school board saying to Morrow County, that the teachers are "not worth it"? Evidently, but if we have teachers for the students—the school board is then saying the students of Morrow County are not "worth it." I think they are worth it. Call your school board members and ask about it.

Sincerely,  
(s) Kathleen Danielson  
Boardman

## Tired of being a 'watchdog'

To the Editor:

We, neighbors and pet lovers think it's high time for people who think they are pet lovers to understand something.

Letting your animals run wild to kill, breed and spread disease, you have a lot to learn.

You're not doing them any favors. There are alot of people around

town getting tired of being a watch dog, even while their pets are on leashes. They are also getting tired of being poopier scoopers. If you want your neighbors to be friends don't let your tramps hurt other people and their "best friends".

Could be friends about town  
Gay & Jer Davis  
Heppner

## Students deserve the best education possible

To the Editor:

In a recent article, Morrow County School Board Chairman Dwayne Carroll was quoted as saying that teachers deserve a good salary. If that is truly Mr. Carroll's opinion, then why is the school board offering the teachers less take-home pay than last year? Surely Mr. Carroll is aware that many teachers do not get incremental raises based on teaching experience. In fact the teachers who have served the longest in Morrow County get no incremental raise. That coupled with the board's offer of a 0% pay increase and the board's intention to cap insurance benefits at last year's dollar amount would result in less take-home pay for these teachers.

The article also stated that negotiations were at an impasse. Isn't that because the board's offer for salary and insurance is no better now than it was fifteen months ago when negotiations began? My dictionary tells me that negotiation is bargain-

ing with a view toward reaching an agreement. Why do I get the feeling that after fifteen months, the board is not really trying to reach an agreement?

Mr. Carroll is not comparing apples to apples when he compares teachers' salaries to the economic climate of the county. Depressed agricultural and timber prices are the result of a supply and demand economy. The result of underpaid teachers will be undereducated students.

As a farmer myself, I know that my income is tied to a supply-and-demand economy. Some years prices are up and some years they are down. But I also know that the children of Morrow County must continue to receive the best possible education. So, Mr. Carroll, I agree with you that teachers do deserve a good salary. When are you going to make them a decent offer?

(s) Doug Fritz  
Boardman

## Obituary

### Wilbert 'Buck' Lane

Funeral services for Wilbert W. "Buck" Lane, 80 of Pendleton were Tuesday, January 17 at Burns Mortuary Chapel in Pendleton. Interment followed at Olney Cemetery in Pendleton.

Lane died Jan. 12 at Delamarter Care Center in Pendleton.

Lane was born Sept. 22, 1908, in Goodrich, Idaho, the son of William R. and Ethel Woods Lane.

Before moving to Pendleton three years ago he lived in Milton-Freewater for 20 years and had lived in Heppner for 15 years before moving to Milton-Freewater.

He was a member of the Episcopal Church.

Survivors include two daughters, Merna M. Bonifer of Pendleton and Leola F. Bailey of Klamath Falls; a son, Orville William Lane of Walla Walla; eight step-children; a brother Arnold Ross Lane of Crescent; eight grandchildren and several step-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by one brother, Lloyd Lane.

Burns Mortuary of Pendleton was in charge of arrangements.

## HJHS Update

Jenny Krein  
Student Body Secretary

Our canned food drive that was in December was a great success. Thanks to all the community that helped in giving. We brought in over 1,350 canned goods. Mrs. Carlson's class (8th grade) won the competition in the Jr. High building. Mr. Sheirbon's class won the elementary building, both classes got an ice cream cone from the Bowling Alley. We are going to have more fundraisers before the next year.

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## 4-H News

### Steve Allen, Reporter

The Seven Super Sewers met Thursday, January 12 at St. William's Catholic Church. We discussed our next project which is sweat pants. We will be in Pendleton Woolen Mills for our next field trip.

We elected the following officers: President, Jory Crowell; vice president, Kelly Morgan; second vice president, Randy Scott; secretary, Jacob Taylor; treasurer, Marc Orem; recorder Steve Allen.

## Justice Court Report

The Justice Court office in the courthouse annex reports handling the following business during the past week:

Paula Lynn Anderson, Ione-Exceeding the Maximum Speed, 68 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$30 fine.

## 'Tis A Nightmare



I had a nightmare the other night, a real cold-sweat, sit-up-in-bed nightmare. I don't often remember nightmares and rarely do they bring me up with a start. I don't even have dreams often. But this one was so real I feel compelled to share it.

I dreamt of signs saying "Unfair," "Children's Future At Risk," "Equity to Educators." Lines of picketers blocked at the doorways to every school in the county as dozens of school children and their anxious parents watched.

Everything was orderly until the charter busses of substitutes rolled in. Then I saw well-educated, highly respected, professional educators turn into animals yelling slogans, calling names and throwing rocks.

The schools were opened, fewer than half of the students showed up. A meeting of parents turned into a shouting match, fists flew, the cops came and in the end long-time friendships were severed and families divided.

As the days wore on, more and more students returned to school. The striking teachers began to mail out resumes. The school board began to weed out the child molesters, drunks and fakes from the ranks of the substitutes.

By spring, the best of the strikers and substitutes as well had found jobs elsewhere. The worst of the strikers stayed on working odd jobs to feed their families. The school budget went down to resounding defeat because enough new "no" voters would now overwhelm what few supporters remained.

In the fall, a decertification election removed the old teachers union and the new union quickly signed with the board for a zero wage increase. Every teacher who could, got a job somewhere else. Those who could not, stayed. Budget constraints forced elimination of many positions and classrooms filled far beyond even the best teacher's ability to be effective.

Not one of the high schools in the county won a football game that fall. A board recall petition prevailed and a majority of them turned out. A subsequent election brought in a bunch of militants, themselves so divided and so full of hate, the superintendent and many of the school principals resigned.

My son flunked out of college, my daughter got pregnant and dropped out her sophomore year and my wife committed suicide. That's when I woke up.

## Hospital Report

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

Edith Crist, Heppner-admitted Dec. 28, discharged Jan. 3;

Robert Schultz, Heppner-admitted Dec. 30, discharged Jan. 1;

Margaret Murray-admitted Jan. 2, discharged Jan. 5;

Erma Hams, Ione-admitted Jan. 5, discharged Jan. 6;

Laura Paris-admitted Jan. 5, discharged Jan. 6;

Bettie Doherty, Heppner-admitted Jan. 9, discharged Jan. 11;

Quinn Peck-admitted Jan. 10, discharged Jan. 11.

Patients still receiving care as of press time were:

Donald Chase-admitted Jan. 2;

Donna Papineau, Lexington-admitted Jan. 4;

Sherrie Mahoney, Heppner-admitted Jan. 10;

Jan Patty Howe-admitted;

Bud Richards-admitted Jan. 11; and

Charlotte Gray, Heppner-admitted Jan. 11.

Patients discharged were:

Ilene Laughlin, Heppner-discharged Jan. 9.

## Tax help at Neighborhood Center

Tax consultants for the elderly, low income and handicapped will be at the Neighborhood center Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, January 24, 25 and 26 from 9 a.m. until 12 noon and 1 - 3 p.m.

For an appointment, call 676-5024.

## "Why am I smiling?"



Not too long ago, I could hear others, but I couldn't understand what they were saying.

Then my Hearing Health Professional tested me and said I was suffering from Nerve Deafness, a type of hearing loss that affects millions of people.

He also told me there is a new hearing technology that could help me: the Argosy canal hearing aid. So tiny, you probably can't see that I'm wearing it right now!

Take my advice and start enjoying the benefits of better hearing. Call your Hearing Health Professional today for a complete hearing test and evaluation.

For more information, please contact:

**Ruud's**  
Hearing Aid Service  
In Heppner On  
Thursday, Jan. 26th  
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
AT GONTY'S  
136 North Gale  
FOR APPOINTMENT CALL  
676-9264 or 276-3155 collect

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## Court Street Market

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Bulk or 1 lb. Bag	
<b>Carrots</b>	<b>29¢</b> lb.
Cherry	
<b>Tomatoes</b>	<b>59¢</b> cup
<b>Lemons</b>	<b>5 for 99¢</b>
Beef	
<b>Cube Steak</b>	<b>\$2.39</b> lb.
Western Family Soft	
<b>Margarine</b> 1 lb. tub	<b>1st 3 69¢</b> ea.
Western Family	
<b>Mayonaise</b> 32 oz.	<b>1st 1 \$1.39</b> ea.
Western Family	
<b>Cream Cheese</b> 8 oz.	<b>89¢</b> ea.
Betty Crocker	
<b>Cake Mixes</b>	<b>99¢</b> ea.

Prices good Jan. 19th - 23rd

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## Court Street Market

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