


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

### Voters say no more taxes

To the Editor:

Morrow County teachers seem to be taking the School Board's hard stand on pay raises as a personal affront to their capabilities or their worth as professionals. It is not, but merely a reflection of what the voters have repeatedly said at the polls—No more taxes.

Let's take a look at the salary and perquisites the Morrow County teachers have under their old contract. I acquired this information by calling the superintendent's office at 989-8202, Lexington:

Average salary last year - \$24,192.00  
Plus: 95% of health coverage \$294 x 12 months \$3,528.00  
Plus: 17.8% of salary paid into a retirement fund (average) \$4,306.17  
Divide this by 190 days on the job per year (per day) \$179.00  
Plus: Extra Duty  
Example: Varisty High School Coach Range of \$1,486.00-\$2,186.00/sport.

### Need for cooperation emphasized at meeting

To the Editor:

As nearly 200 people rose to applaud the speech of Mrs. Ardy Evenson, it was clearly perceived that the negotiations had reached a crises stage. Mrs. Evenson emphasized the need for cooperation of both parties to reach a just settlement. Her evaluation that the board's attitude of do-nothing was causing our county, communities, schools and children's education to be damaged. There is no doubt that her perceptions and evaluations are quite correct.

A willingness to negotiate has been a problem. The school board, through their professional negotiator Ed Rutledge, has defined negotiations as coming down to the board's proposal of a three year wage increase of 0%-1%-1% and a dollar cap on insurance at last year's amount. Because of this prevailing selfish attitude, negotiations has stalled for the past 16 months.

At the first negotiation session in

Example: Selling tickets at ball games \$9.00/hr.

Plus: 10 days per year paid sick leave

Plus: Some free education-at the Jan. 16th school board meeting \$10,000 was budgeted for schooling teachers in computer science. Some college tuition can be reimbursed.

Plus: An automatic longevity step increase (or raise) each year for added seniority. Range of \$461.00-\$843.00 per year.

Plus: Automatic raises for added degrees or credit hours.

This information is easily verified and I have tried to present them without any emotion or opinion. I hope you would study them and draw your own conclusions. We all can conclude that Morrow County has excellent teachers and I hope we can keep them.

(s) George Kenney  
Rt. 2 Box 204  
Irrigon

1987, board member Joe Stevens indicated that a settlement could be reached by Christmas. Two holiday seasons have passed—nothing has changed. At our second session Joe said, "we have the ability to pay, we are just not willing to." Nothing has changed. The board continues to claim they are representing the majority of citizens in Morrow County. This is a false assumption. Many community members have had the facts presented to them through speeches to Grange groups and general coffee gatherings. Almost all have been very receptive to the teacher's plight. All have been concerned by the board's negative attitude toward negotiation of a contract.

After a recent January 16th board meeting, Bill Doherty, a current board member, expressed his views. He was asked why the citizens were not allowed to speak at the meeting. His answer was that they did not allow the public to speak this time because they did not want the same response as they got three years ago. Bill went on to say that we have "single A" and "B" teachers who are getting "AA" pay. He stated that the public is 9 to 1 in favor of the board's position and is calling the board to express a willingness to house substitutes in case of a strike. Bill also expressed a "let 'em go on strike" attitude. This is the attitude with which the teachers of Morrow County are dealing.

I encourage the patrons of Morrow County to voice your feelings to the Morrow County School Board, Supt. Doyle McCaslin or the Morrow County Education Association to insure a positive educational atmosphere for our young people.

Respectfully Submitted,  
(s) Kevan Pratt  
Boardman, OR

### "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

## Morrowites asked to re-think their position

To the Editor:

Once upon a time in a land of Morrow (which was in the kingdom of Oregon), there lived a proud people known as Morrowites. They were hard workers and proud of their simple way of life. The land itself was rather barren compared to other lands to the west, but it made for a unique, free lifestyle.

For years and years everything was pleasant and happy in the land of Morrow (which was the kingdom of Oregon). Because the land of Morrow was considered one of the richest lands in the kingdom of Oregon, the collection of adequate taxes was not a real problem. In fact, over half of the taxes were paid by the very rich and powerful Count Peegee (PGE). This meant, of course, that the local Morrowites themselves had one of the lowest tax rates in the kingdom. Most of the citizens realized their good fortune. There were those that complained (they would complain about anything) because they wanted more control over the taxes and even the citizens themselves. However, most things were going quite nicely in the land of Morrow. The indentured servants (Morrow Co. school teachers) took great pride in their work and had finally begun to be paid close to an adequate amount of gold coin for the excellent work that they did.

As time went by, the powerful Council of Morrow (Morrow Co. School Board) began to exert their authority over the citizens of Morrow. Hardest hit were the poor indentured servants. The cost of living was rising, but the Council refused to pay them more gold coin than they were already getting.

"Can't you see what you're doing?" they screamed. "Can't you see how many citizens are leaving the land of Morrow? Can't you see how many young people can't wait to move to lands with more opportunity? You should try to keep the citizens here so our land can grow and prosper."

However, the Council refused to talk to any of the citizens. They

## Port asks support for economic growth in Morrow County

To the Editor:

Since the founding of the Port of Morrow, the board of commissioners of the port have taken considerable pride in the fact that the port has operated at very little cost to the tax payers. Presently that cost amounts to approximately .6¢ per thousand of county wide property value.

Through the years it has been the policy of the port to finance port development through the use of revenue bonds. The debt payments on these bonds are paid by adding charges to utility rates of the industries located on the port. These industries also service the debt on their own bonds as well as paying the cost of daily operation of the ports utility system.

In recent years economics have changed. Competition for industrial development is keen. Other industrial parks in our competition area are in a better position to offer competitive rates because of broader tax support and more debt free utilities.

Thus despite an excellent location, the port finds itself losing the competitive edge. After careful con-

sideration, the commission feels that it is time to ask the taxpayers of our county wide port district for help by seeking passage of a general obligation bond issue in the amount of \$750,000. Of this amount six hundred thousand will be used to retire certain port bonds, which could directly affect the ports rates. One hundred thousand dollars would be used to improve port facilities and the remaining fifty thousand dollars would be used to provide a nucleus for industrial development in south Morrow County.

The cost of the bond issue would add approximately 10¢ per thousand of value to the current tax support of the port.

We believe you will agree with us that this amount, which would be a tax of \$5 for your \$50,000 home, is perhaps one of the most important expenditures that we can make in support of our economic growth.

Sincerely,  
(s) Jim Ackley  
14941 S. Union Mills Rd  
Mulino, OR 97042

(s) Larry Lindsay, President  
Port of Morrow Commission  
John Bristow, vice president  
Kent Goodyear, secretary  
Bill Sharkey, commissioner  
Matt Doherty, treasurer

## Exam Time



The Port of Morrow proposes a \$750,000 General Obligation Bond issue, once rejected by the voters but renewed on the March ballot. We have some questions about that issue:

Q: General Obligation Bonds may be repaid with any source of revenue such as sewer and water charges, terminal handling charges and the like. If those sources are inadequate, taxes must be levied, however. Is it the intention to levy taxes, in addition to the tax base, to repay this new Bond issue? If so, how much? If not, what source of revenue will be used?

Q: About \$600,000 is proposed to retire some Revenue Bonds which are now being retired by water and sewer charges to the food processing tenants in the Port's industrial park. How much would refinancing these Revenue Bonds save the tenants in water and sewer charges? Would that be enough to make them "competitive" enough to maintain current employment levels? increase employment? Do we have any kind of commitment from them to do so?

Q: Isn't part of that \$600,000 bond retirement related to the construction of the container terminal? Doesn't the container terminal handle enough cargo to pay the cost of operation including bonded indebtedness? If so, why refinance it? If not, is it now foreseeable that it ever will be profitable?

Q: About \$100,000 of the proposed General Obligation Bond issue was originally intended to restore the eroding river bank as it threatened to destroy a truck scale. That project appears to have been completed already and presumably paid for. What new project is planned? Will any public comment be solicited to determine an appropriate project?

Q: The remaining \$50,000 is said to be earmarked to acquire an industrial site in South County. Is there a specific site in mind? Is an industrial site the best use, as opposed to buildings, machinery, research, marketing plans, feasibility studies? Will any public comment be solicited to decide?

A passing grade on the foregoing exam will warrant our support of the General Obligation Bond issue.

## An open letter to the school board

To the Editor:

You were elected to the school board by your peers and your neighbors because you were respected for your values, ideas, and your independent thinking. The purpose of your election was not that you line up rank and file in support of the policies of the superintendent. It was that each of you, independently speak out on your own opinions of what you believe is best for the education of the children in Morrow County. It seems strange to me that all of you agree on the position not to negotiate with the teachers on the terms of their contract.

You are asking the teachers to accept a total pay increase of two percent over the next three years. If inflation continues at 4.5% the cost of living will rise 13.5% during the same period, so you are actually trying to cut their salaries by 11.5% during this three year contract. The reason that I have heard for this low pay increase is that there is too much dead weight amongst the teachers. As far as I know, the teachers are not the ones that hire other teachers, the administration is responsible for this function. Now you want all of the teachers to give up 11.5 percent of their salaries because you are not satisfied with the performance of a few. The majority of the teachers are good teachers and are striving to become better teachers. If this deadlock continues, it cannot help but put a bad taste in the mouths of all the teachers.

When these people chose to become teachers, they realized that they would never be wealthy, but they did expect to be fairly paid. The teachers must also realize that this is not the best of economic times in this area, and a cost of living increase is

a fair offer. With the factfinders recommendation of 12% over three years, I fail to comprehend your motivation of not negotiating with the teachers.

With our local economy in its current state, it is increasingly difficult for high school graduates to find good paying jobs in this area. This means that our children need to be prepared for additional education after high school, which makes the education of our children more important than it has ever been. I cannot believe that we will be able to keep the best of our teachers in this area if the board does not begin to negotiate in good faith with the teachers. I also feel that it would be impossible to replace our best teachers if they did leave, considering the terms of the contract the board is proposing. The majority of the people who would move into this area to accept a job under those terms would be the ones that could not find work elsewhere. We need teachers who are going to make a lifelong commitment to the children in this community and in return we need to show our appreciation by paying them fairly.

I perceive the attitude of the school board, led by the administration, of not wanting to resolve these negotiations, but to win them. I urge the board to stop and think about the possible consequences of their current position. This is a risky approach, because if the board succeeds in winning these negotiations, it will not be just the teachers who lose but also the children of our community.

(s) John Kilkenny  
Heppner

## 4-H News

**Foods Inc**  
Dawn Boor, Reporter  
On January 18, 1989 we held a 4-H cooking meeting in the home-ec room at 3:45 p.m. We worked on our records. We are planning on having a bake sale on March 14 to raise money for our club. Our next meeting will be on February 8, 1989.



## BRIGHTEN

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## Court Street Market

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WHERE YOUR DOLLAR MAKES MORE CENTS

Western Family	Ramen Noodles 3 oz.	• for \$1.00
Heinz	Ketsup 28 oz. squeeze bottle	\$1.49 ea.
Western Family, Elbow	Macaroni 2 lb.	limit 1 \$1.29 ea.
Western Family, long	Spaghetti 2 lb.	limit one \$1.29 ea.
Banquet frozen	T.V. Dinners 10 oz.	\$1.29 ea.
No. 1,	Potatoes 10 lb. bag	\$1.39 ea.
Green Pearlette	Seedless Grapes	\$1.39 lb.
Smoked	Ham Shanks	98¢ lb.
Beef	Rib Steak	\$2.00 lb.
Hills	Bulk Franks	\$1.00 lb.

Prices good Jan. 26th - 30th  
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK - 7 A.M. - 6 P.M.

## Court Street Market

111 N. Court Heppner 676-9643