

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
Published every Wednesday and entered as second-class matter at the Post Office at Heppner, Oregon under the Act of March 3, 1879. Second class postage paid at Heppner, Oregon. Office at 147 West Willow Street. Telephone (503) 676-9228. Address communications to the Heppner Gazette-Times, P.O. Box 337, Heppner, Oregon 97836. Subscriptions: \$12 in Morrow, Wheeler, Gilliam and Grant Counties; \$23 elsewhere.

Joyce Hughes Office Manager, Typesetting
Diana Ball News Editor
Marie Struthers Graphics Department
Gail Papineau Graphics Department
Becky Evans Distribution

David and April Sykes, Publishers

Letters to the Editor

Can we afford a strike?

To the Editor:

I have lived in Morrow County over ten years. My children have been well-served by the teachers of Morrow County. From the first day in the third grade to her graduation my daughter had caring teachers who went the extra mile. Teachers have been available to my children before and after school and on weekends. The proposal of the board will encourage those experienced, caring teachers to leave our schools and our communities will be poorer for it.

Teachers are taxpayers, too. They have an investment in our communities, and in our children. Not only are they parents, but they serve as volunteer EMTs, firefighters and library workers. They also include a mayor, a councilman, a volunteer who assists senior citizens with their taxes and this list goes on and on.

Morrow County teacher's average salary ranks twenty-sixth out of the thirty-six Oregon counties, yet has the third lowest tax rate of any district in the state. The factfinder's report stated that the district has the funds to give the teachers a raise. The teachers have accepted this report. The school board rejected the report and has not moved from its 0%, 1%, 1%, "offer" since

November of 1987. With insurance increases, the teachers will take a pay cut with the board's "offer."

I attended the January 16, 1989, board meeting. The letter read by Mrs. Evenson echoes my feelings. However, watching the faces of the board members was disheartening. They appeared completely bored by the whole proceeding. I realize this has been a long drawn out process, but they have not surveyed the patrons of Morrow County to see what we wanted, but rather have relied on their own interpretation of why the levies failed. People vote "no" for many reasons.

Our children are watching us and how we deal with problems. This is a terrible lesson in how to polarize a community. They are worth the investment we make in them. The future is theirs and we will be dependent on how well we prepared them. They deserve quality even if they are only in "A" or "B" schools. Let's stick to the issues and make this a win-win situation, not a win-lose situation as the board member I spoke to implied. Settlement is contingent on flexibility and negotiations. Can we afford a strike?

(s) Sharron Meyers
Boardman

High praise for cheerleaders/dance team

To the Editor:

Yeh, yeh, hooray for the H.H.S. Cheerleaders and Dance Team. For the past few years I'd been meaning to write asking the students of Heppner High School "what happened to your school spirit?", but this year I'm motivated to write this letter to praise and congratulate those fine gals for all their pep and enthusiasm. It's a delight for an ex-cheerleader to watch the spirit come back and to be proud of our students. I can remember "way back when" the cheering section would go home hoarse or lose their voices completely. Hey, HHS you're almost as good

as "way back when" and if you keep together in one section and cheer your hearts out for those great ball teams that so proudly play basketball—you're going to have the best rooting section in the league at tournament.

Thanks Benji, Michelle and Dulcie for bringing the spirit back and those outstanding dance team members for entertaining us at half-time. Your many hours of practice have definitely shined through. The whole crowd is buzzing what a fine group you are.

(s) Judie Laughlin

Seniors in need of donations to furnish center

To the Editor:

The new St. Patrick's Senior Center on the first floor of the restored Heppner Hotel will open soon. The Senior Center Board of Directors knows that the community has largely provided this great new center primarily for seniors, but we have always intended to make this facility a community center available for use by organizations and individuals. In fact, since our board's only source of revenue is from donations, volunteer work, and fund raising projects, we hope to pay part or our operational costs from renting the rooms of the center. Already a group has reserved the kitchen and dining room for serving an Irish Stew dinner on St. Patrick's weekend.

Right now we are trying to furnish our new center with the quality our community can be proud of. Our contract with the city council states that for \$60,000 they will provide walls, ceilings, floors, doors, hardware, lighting, heating, completed restrooms, plumbing piped into the kitchen area, and an electrical panel and submeter. Seniors are to provide all other furnishings.

Although we have received donations from some organizations and individuals and have worked hard on many fund-raising projects, we do not have sufficient funds to do the job right. Since people and organizations have been asking us what we need, we are publishing these lists.

We have already purchased the following first priority items, or they have been donated, new and used: food preparation utensils and dishes to serve 100, gas range, hood, and make-up air fan, water heater, con-

vection oven, 2 stainless steel sinks, deep fat fryer, dishwasher assembly, floor polishers, 12 side chairs, 6 dining chairs, 150 stack chairs, 25 30" x 8' folding tables, piano, stereo, pool table, prints for framing and desk, file cabinet, etc for the office and books for a sizable paperback library.

The following are items we need and/or would like to put in the center, either new or used: TV set, VCR, vacuum cleaner, 1 stainless steel kitchen sink, 3 large garbage cans, 1 hand truck, 1 30" dust mop, wet mops and bucket, brooms, brushes, dust pans, book cases, clothes hangers, 36" card tables, cards and chips, games (all kinds), additional stack chairs (to match those purchased @ \$16.75), puzzles, mirrors, table or floor lamps, small tables, 2 desks, end tables, additional plates, cups, sauce dishes, glasses, flatware, (to match ours, we have 100); our room will serve 200), davenport, easy chairs, new double-door refrigerator (\$2,000), telephone, occasional chairs, battery wall clocks (3), books, racks for moving and storing stack chairs (about \$78 each) and anything you think we might use that we haven't thought of.

Anyone wishing to contact us can call 676-9435 and leave a message or call any of our board members.

Thank you sincerely,
The Heppner Senior Citizens' Board of Directors
(s) Jane Rawlins, Lynnea Sargent, Mary Goheen, John Wood, Dr. Wallace Wolff, Arnold Melby, Lillian Boyce, Everett Keithley, Area Agency on Aging Advisor, Ardis Largent

Response to Mr. Kennys letter

To the Editor:

In response to Mr. George Kenney's letter regarding "no more taxes", I should like to ask him to respond to several comments and questions. Allow me to begin, however, by stating that I am a Morrow County school teacher making substantially less than Mr. Kenney's stated "average". In fact it will require several more years before I approach that average. Also, for the record, Mr. Kenney is a former employee of Dwayne Carroll, Morrow County School Board chairman.

Let us now consider several of my perquisites. Webster defines a perquisite as a privilege. My first privilege is that I am required to maintain continuing education at the graduate level in both education and science. Since the district requires that I take those hours and my students benefit directly from my increased knowledge and comprehension it seems just and right that I am, somewhat, reimbursed for those tuition dollars. However, the added expense I incur in order to obtain my increased competence are not reimbursed and are not tax deductible. These expenses include additional housing, food and travel. This past summer alone the additional expense essentially equaled the step increase I earned. Furthermore, I am expected to obtain this education on my own time. Let me also mention that the district does not compensate me for the time I spend reading to maintain competency in my field (some 300 articles and texts each year) nor does the district compensate me for the time I spend yearly to revamp my notes and lessons in order that they may reflect that new knowledge, yet they demand that I exhibit this professionalism.

Mr. Kenney, you included in your list of "perks" an "automatic" step increase of \$461 to \$843 (approximately 2.3% of your average salary). Au contraire Mr. Kenney, to quote Mr. Doyle McCaslin (Morrow Co. Supt. of Schools) in a letter to me dated Oct. 18, 1988, in regards to my question concerning whether I earned or was given a step increase Mr. McCaslin states "The salary schedule for teachers became much like the wage schedules for apprentice, journeymen and master machinists. The premise in both is that through experience and further education people not only become better at their jobs, but they advance along the salary schedule until they reach the top of their particular profession or skill." Since my omniscient school board offered me a contract which included an optional step increase I concluded that they must have recognized my increased ability to educate their children. Therefore, I feel I earned their trust and the step increase, otherwise they would not have offered the contract.

In addition, any teacher who has between nine to fourteen years of dedicated service to the district is not

allowed a step increase irregardless of what competence level they may achieve in the classroom. Thus unless there is a general increase in the wage scale the district's most experienced and arguably the best teachers are penalized for staying. Why do you believe that is fair, Mr. Kenney?

Next, you implied that I automatically received an increase in salary when I moved over one column in the wage scale this summer when I earned my thirtieth hour beyond my Master of Science in botany. Now, I don't know where you went to school, George, but OSU certainly does not hand out the science credits for the "A's" received "automatically". In any case, Sir, I have bent over backwards for you and your children in order to offer them the very best in science education. Thus I trust you'll pardon my feeling that I earned the additional compensation and I consider it far from an "automatic" increase.

In conclusion, while my additional compensation was not automatic, inflation appears to be. Although the increase I earned was neither unwelcome nor insubstantial, neither was it exorbitant, yet inflation has already eaten 4% of that increase. In essence, by adamantly remaining mired in their position of 0-1-1, what the board gives with one hand they take away with the other. Where I grew up we called that Indian Giving, what do you call it, George?

Sincerely,
(s) Tim McCreary
Science Teacher Riverside High School Boardman

Former committee member offers solution to strike

To the Editor:

The wage negotiations between the Morrow County Teacher's and the School board have become increasingly heated. It appears a stalemate could lead to a teacher strike. I have long felt that a civilized society should have the competence to keep its schools open, that education of our children is so important that school closure for any reason is intolerable. A strike would either close schools or cause the hiring of replacement teachers. There would be a continuation of name calling with a potential for violence. It would tear our community apart and leave scars to last and last long after the strike is ended. I'd like to offer an alternative.

In 1982 the State Board of Education asked me to chair a seven person committee known as the "Alternative to Strike Committee". We were told to hold meetings around the state, deliberate over what we heard and report to the State Board our conclusions. It was a good committee of educators, school board members and lay people. We made a number of recommendations to the State Board of Education. The key solution and the only one that would positively prevent strikes was what is known in labor negotiating circles as "Final Offer Binding Arbitration." In case of Morrow County Schools it would work this way:

- 1-Unable to resolve their differences through negotiation, the school board and the teachers would agree to take their case to "Final Offer Binding Arbitration." Both would agree to abide by the final decision of the Arbitration Board.
- 2-The school board and the teachers would each appoint one member to the arbitration board. These two would appoint a third member. This arbitration board would make the final decision.
- 3-The school board and the teachers would individually decide what their final offer would be.

These offers would have to cover all the issues in dispute.

4-The arbitration board, upon receipt of these final offers, would call the negotiators together for one final attempt to negotiate a settlement.

5-Failing a negotiated settlement, the arbitration board by a majority of its members would make the decision. The key to the success of this method is that the arbitration board could not change one iota of either final offer, would have to select one or the other as presented.

6-The arbitration board would document its reasons for its selection spelling out the necessary steps based on the existing conditions and circumstances.

The final offer of both parties is extremely important, knowing it is their last chance both parties should be very responsible. Final Offer Binding Arbitration has been used in many labor disputes. It is generally opposed by both school boards and teachers organizations because it takes away some of their individual responsibility and authority. The State Board of Education while agreeing with most of our report, also thought this was probably too controversial. The legislature scarcely looked at it, yet, it does have several important results in that it keeps schools open, it stops name calling, it prevents the division and scars in a community and establishes a procedure to prevent the establishment of battle lines.

While not a panacea but, because of Oregon's inadequate school financing it does offer a solution to a situation that could be devastating. I urge Morrow County School Board and the Morrow County Teachers Association to take the steps necessary to implement such a proposal before the current impasse gets out-of-hand.

(s) Stafford Hansell
Boardman

PLOYHAR INSURANCE

Ask us about Health Insurance or Nursing Home Insurance

We handle:

- Blue Cross - Blue Shield
- Pioneer Life Insurance Co.
- First Farwest Life & Health
- United American
- Pacific Heritage Assurance Co.

Phone: 676-6618

OPEN HOUSE
Deena's Hair Care
Wednesday, Feb. 8th
9 a.m. - 5 p.m. All Welcome
Retirements served
291 W. Baltimore - Heppner
I specialize in hair cuts, perms, coloring.
Ask about our specials!



SALE SALE SALE SALE

13th Annual 2 for 1 Sale!
Starting February 2nd - Thursday

Pick out two pair; Pay for the most expensive and get the second pair FREE. Bring a friend and "share".

Cowboy Boots - Mens, **Wrangler** women's and youth.
"Acme-Wrangler **acme** Boots

NIKE Soft Spots  Cherokee
Women's Fashion Shoes - Soft Spots[®], Cherokee[®], Red Cross[®], Maine Woods[®]. A large selection of dress shoes and casuals also.

Snow Boots - Youth sno-joggers-Women's Fashion Sno-Boots - Men's Sno-Boots with zipper front.
Rubber Boots - Western Lace up by La Crosse[®] 4 buckle, youth western & men's round toe.
Slippers - Assorted Men's, Women's, & Youths.
Socks - Jefferies[®], Wigwags[®].
Men's Stacy Adams[®] Dress Oxford. **\$10.00 a pair**
Sport Shoes - Nike[®], Peaks[®], La Crosse[®], & Keds[®].

Assorted shirts - **2 for 1!**
(Other unadvertized Bargains)

SHOE BOX "Shoes for every walk of life"
Main St. Heppner 676-5241

SALE SALE SALE SALE

PUBLIC INVITATION NOTICE
You are invited to an open house of the Community's St. Patrick Senior Center. Saturday, Feb. 4, 1989, 1-4 p.m.
Come In-Look Around-Take a Tour
See what your support has accomplished!

Court Street Market
CHECK OUR EVERYDAY LOW PRICES
WHERE YOUR DOLLAR MAKES MORE CENTS

Western Family, frozen	
Orange Juice 12 oz.	99¢ ea.
Starkist Chunk Light Tuna 6 1/2 oz.	79¢ ea.
Western Family, Tomato Sauce 8 oz.	6 for \$1.00
Western Family, Evaporated Milk 12 oz.	2 for 95¢
Fresh Whole Crab	\$2.00 lb.
Fresh Red Snapper	\$1.99 lb.
Fresh Broccoli	49¢ lb.
Large, sized Avocados	2 for 99¢
Tropicana Orange Juice 1/2 gal.	\$2.39 ea.
Assorted Cut Pork Chops	\$1.49 lb.
Oscar Mayer Beef Franks 1 lb.	\$1.79 ea.

Prices good Feb. 2nd - 6th
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK - 7 A.M. - 6 P.M.

Court Street Market
111 N. Court Heppner 676-9643





