

Letters to the Editor

Why would anyone want to be a school board member?

To the Editor:
I cannot, for the life of me, understand why anyone in his or her right mind would run for a school board position in any district. It's a thankless job to say the least. Not only is one set up for public ridicule, but often family members are put to the test as well.

These people, it would seem, would have much better or at least more enjoyable things to do. As far as I know most if not all members of the Morrow County School Board run successful businesses or hold down full-time jobs, have families they enjoy being with, and most would probably enjoy staying home on a Monday night to watch pro football instead of sitting through a 3-6 hour meeting. Of course the monthly meeting is only the beginning of their responsibilities. What drives these people? The pay? The benefits? The retirement plan? The health plan?

I was told recently by a member of the board, that a teacher in our district wrote him and stated that he/she had had 4-5 years of college and was a "professional" and then asked what qualifications he had to be on the school board.

Not only has this member been a responsible, caring, decent and successful person with years of experience and skills which far surpass what many teachers could ever hope to achieve-out in that other world-the real one; he has also been elected and then re-elected again at least once to this position.

Although we all know that our teachers are allowed to hide behind the perfectly legal security of their tenure, (after only three years) wouldn't it be interesting to see who and how many would be re-elected to their positions if put to the vote of the people?

Heppnerite furthers cause for leukemia victim

To the Editor:
Recently an article appeared in this column regarding a 19 year old woman who has leukemia. Her only chance of survival is with a bone marrow transplant. Her husband is a student who works parttime, they have a 6 month-old child, and no medical insurance. They are asking for the help of Oregonians to raise part of the expense of the transplant.

I have one other question. What do you as voters think your reaction would have been about a year ago if the board had sat down with the teachers and said-"sure, we'll give you a raise. You deserve it. We all know you do. The voters/taxpayers have said "no" to practically all our levy requests in the last 3-4 years, we have virtually no money in our reserve, we're operating in the Safety Net, our fleet of buses is falling apart, and the Fed's mandate that we spend a fortune on our asbestos problem. But we'll forge ahead and maybe get lucky with the next levy." Would that have been a responsible way to proceed? And exactly what has changed since then?

Thus far, I've not heard any practical, workable solutions. MCEA's anger at the board should indeed be pointed toward those who go to the polls. The board has simply digested the information they've gotten from elections and public opinion and are acting accordingly.

I just have one suggestion. Why not set it up as a referendum to the people? "Should Morrow County teachers get a salary increase-beyond the increase in their benefits and normal step increases? Yes or no." Or better yet, what about the serial levy to cover the increases MCEA proposes. Let the people decide once and for all. They are the ones who ultimately decide at the polls anyway. Let's take the heat off the board and the teachers. Let's stop this bickering which is reducing our professional teachers (of which we do have many) to sounding like professional longshoremen.

Let there be peace in Morrow County again.

(s) Sue Proudfoot
Former Morrow Co. Schools Budget Committee member, lone of the people?

In the Service

Marine Sgt. Craig A. Miles, son of Dexter M. and Corine M. Miles of Heppner, has been promoted to his present rank while serving with 9th Communication Battalion, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

A 1983 graduate of Heppner High School, he joined the Marine Corps in February 1985.

Ponies play last games

By Rick Koffler

The Heppner Ponies played their last games of the year January 24 and 26.

The "C" team's last game was Jan. 24 and they played at Columbia. The "C" team was behind most of the game but in the last few minutes they got closer. The boys could never pull ahead. The final score was 23-20. The "C" team's final record was 0-8.

The rest of the teams played their last game in Stanfield. The "A" team boys played an improved Stanfield team. The boys were down by

three with two minutes left. The boys then went up by four and ended up winning 31-29. The "A" team's season record was 4-5.

The 7th grade girls also had a close game winning by a score of 18-15. Their season record also improved to a mark of 6-3.

The 8th grade girls, who earlier in the season lost to this same team, lost by a score of 29-11. Their season ended with a mark of 7-3.

The "B" team boys' undefeated season stayed alive as they crushed Stanfield's 7th grade team 37-9. "B" team's record was a perfect 8-0.

Jason Britt paces Frosh with 19 points

The Heppner Frosh survived a scare January 24 before overcoming Pilot Rock Rockets 57-53 at Heppner. The victory kept Heppner's eight game winning streak alive. The freshmen's only loss was December 6 at Umatilla.

The Mustangs led 16-15 at the end of one quarter but trailed 30-26 at halftime.

It was a new game at the end of the third period with the score deadlocked at 41.

Pilot Rock jumped all over Heppner early in the fourth quarter

leading by six points with less than three minutes remaining in the game. Heppner's pressing defense forced several Rocket turnovers which converted into points as the Mustangs stole the lead with under a minute to play. The Frosh held on to capture their ninth win in ten outings.

Jason Britt paced the Mustangs with 19 points followed by Charlie Rathbun's 14, Richard Pettyjohn chipped in 10 points.

Britt 19, Rathbun 14, Pettyjohn 10, Garcia 6, Currin 4, Sweeney 4, Wilson, Rollis, McCurry, Phillips.

Osmin high point JV

By Scott Johnston

The J.V. Mustangs after four losses finally got back on the winning track, beating the host Umatilla Vikings Saturday, January 28.

Heppner after a low-scoring first quarter led by one point 10-9. Kevin Bond scored five points in the period.

Both teams came out hot in the second period as the Mustangs scored 20 and Umatilla scored 19. Behind Rick Osmin's 15 points in the second quarter Heppner took a two point lead to the locker room at half time.

Heppner and Umatilla battled back and forth in the third quarter and at the end the Vikings cut the Mustangs lead to one point. Brandon Pedro scored six points in the quarter.

The J.V. Mustangs shut the door on the Vikings in the fourth quarter outscoring Umatilla 23-17. The final

score was 68-61.
Osmin led the Heppner J.V.'s with 22 points, eight rebounds and three assists. Bobby Krein had seven steals for the victorious Mustangs.

The J.V. Mustangs, 4-4 on the season, will host the Riverside Pirates Friday, February 3. Heppner lost to the Pirates the last time they played on January 13, 74-45. The Mustangs will then travel to Stanfield to play the Tigers.

Heppner JV's (68) Connor 3 2-2 8; Krein 3 3-6 9; Cecil; Bond 6 2-3 14; Johnston; Burt 1 2-2 4; Pedro 4 0-3 8; Sharp; Osmin 7 8-10 22; Mahon 1 0-1 2; Munkers; Wallace 0 1-2 1; Totals 25 18-30 68.

Umatilla JV's (61) Savage; Beitel 1 3-5 5; Sunday 0 1-2 1; Duber 2 0-2 4; Divilbilis 2 3-7 7; Bowman 0 1-3 1; Thomas 8 4-8 20; Monter 8 5-10 21; Turner; Nobles 1 0-0 2. Totals 21 17-37 61.

Heppner 10 20 15 23 68
Umatilla 9 19 16 17 61

Cardinals outscore Honkers

By Michelle Papineau

Tuesday, January 24, the lone Cardinals outscored the Arlington Honkers 53-48 in a comical league game.

Lone's Dustin Padberg and Arlington's Tony Zastrow staged a comedy act during the game, but both were key players to their teams. Padberg was leading scorer for Lone with 21 points shooting 71% from the field and 100% from the free-throw line.

Jim Davison led Lone in the first quarter with four points. Padberg led the second quarter with eight points and the third quarter with seven. He also pulled down 10 rebounds.

Davison challenged Padberg for top rebounding honors grabbing 10

rebounds. Davison also shot 71% from the field and ended the game with 10 points.

Mike Garrett led the fourth quarter with four of his 10 points. This aided Lone in it's 53-48 win against the Honkers.

Statistics
Lone 10 17 13 13 53
Arlington 9 11 14 14 48
Padberg 10 1-1 21; Ball 3 1-3 8; Broderick 0 2-2 2; Garrett 4 2-2 10; Morter 0 2-3 2; Davison 5 0-0 10; Hams; Warren.

3-point shots Ball 1.
Fouls Lone 9 Arlington 15. Fouled out-Bettencourt.

Rebounds lonne 44 Arlington 24. Padberg 10; Ball 3; Broderick 3; Garrett 10; Morter 2; Davison 10.

Blocked shots Padberg 2; Broderick 1; Morter 1.
Turnovers lone 23, Arlington 15.

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