

The Official Newspaper of the City of Heppner and the County of Morrow

GAZETTE-TIMES
Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper

U.S.P.S. 240-420

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

David and April Sykes, Publishers

Community prayer may make a difference

To the Editor and citizens of Morrow County:

I am a senior citizen who has chosen to retire in Morrow County. I am on a fixed income. The taxes on my small, improved home have increased more than 30% in the five years that I have owned it. Any further increases, and all of the former, mean less dollars in my savings for a rainy day, and also, more close scrutiny of choices I made as a consumer, even changing my life-style.

Even so, I have voted "yes" on the school budgets, an unequivocal "yes". The vote has been, each time, close enough that no one can claim a mandate, nor have permission to be immovable in a position.

The reason for my vote is one of trust and tangibility. Our system in some persons the privilege to weigh needs against resources and to make decisions. I have trusted those persons to have, after study, a broad insight into needs, and to be wise in those decisions which will provide for and make our local schools the kinds of places where our children and young people may become responsible world citizens. We know that few of them will be able to remain in Morrow County because of changes over which we have no control.

In spite of this, we can provide deep rooting, vision, and support in order that this county, always, may be HOME, a treasured launching pad, for any vocation around the world or in space, that any of our children might choose. The persons in whom I have invested my trust are my neighbors and I want to appreciate their vision and ability to cope with change.

I also invest a trust in those persons who have more hours with our children than families do, these days. My trust is in their integrity of purpose, their dedication to their own calling and their desire for excellence.

This brings me to the last point-tangibility. I can see and enjoy the buildings my tax dollars have built; I can see the busses transporting children; I can see evidence of stewardship in maintenance and upkeep on these necessities. I sit next to school personnel at community events; I meet them at local eating places. They are part and parcel of my life.

I see young people mature and succeed. I rejoice in their successes. I am able to say to most of them, at one time or other, "failure isn't the last word. Let's try again."

I do not want to see or experience any interruption in the work of the investment of trust or tax dollars-tax dollars which stay here to provide an education to develop a sense of responsibility, character and self esteem in our youth and which I, a senior citizen, can experience and see happening.

One person very close to the school issue has suggested a call to community prayer - a time set apart for persons to be in silence before the great wisdom of our various traditions; not debating, not arguing, not defending, not expressing opinions; simply allowing our minds to be quiet a bit, and (yes) resonant with the Spirit of God. If you agree, speak to your church leaders and clergy about it. It can happen and it will make a difference.

(s)Sincerely
Grace E. Drake

Health Dept.

The Morrow County Health Department in Heppner lists its monthly schedule for February:

Feb. 10: blood pressures and immunizations, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., Pettijohn offices, Heppner.

Feb. 14: blood pressures and immunizations, 1-4 p.m., Irrigon County offices.

Feb. 15: blood pressures, 2-3 p.m. Bank of Eastern Oregon kitchen, Ione.

Feb. 17: blood pressures and immunizations, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Heppner office, Pettijohn building.

Feb. 20: President's day holiday.

Feb. 21: blood pressures and immunizations, 1:30-4 p.m. Boardman City Hall.

Feb. 24: blood pressures and immunizations, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Heppner office, Pettijohn building.

Feb. 28: blood pressures and immunizations, 1-4 p.m. Irrigon County offices.

Marriage Licenses

The Clerk's office at the courthouse in Heppner reports issuing the following marriage licenses during the past week:

Charles Richard Hansen, 33, Boardman; and

Mary-jane Howard McDonald, 33, Boardman.

Apples and Oranges

We all make the mistake of comparing apples with oranges. Pizza at room temperature (70 degrees F.) is said to be "cold," while beer at the same temperature is "warm." A 150 lb. dog would be a "big" one while the same sized horse would be called "tiny."

Comparisons are important, though, since many decisions we make are based on a comparison with some other decision already made. Nowhere are comparisons more important than in the market place. Most of what we buy is based on a comparison of its price with that of some other item we could also buy. Most of what we sell is priced according to "the market."

Two comparisons that are particularly valuable: change over a period of time and differences from place to place. But it is important to identify the same item in making comparisons over time or place to place.

Let's take a look at some changes over a period of time. Wheat traded for \$3.34/bu. (delivered Portland) a year ago. Today, the price of wheat is \$4.97, up 49%. Cattle (7-800 lb steers) sold for \$79.50/cwt. a year ago. Today those same steers sell for \$80.50/cwt, up 1%.

We checked on some wages around. Wage rates at Kinzua Corp. sawmill in Heppner are up 2% from a year ago, plus a \$1,100 bonus last June (that's another 4.5% on the average.)

Wage rates at Lamb-Weston's french fry plant in Boardman are the same as last year but most employees earn bonuses for attendance and safety amounting to about 2%.

A grader operator working for Morrow County earns \$8.83 per hour today, up 9% from 8.08 just a year ago.

Comparing wages from place to place we found that a beginning school teacher, with a Bachelor's degree from an accredited college, today earns \$17,530 in Hermiston, \$17,226 in Pendleton and \$17,485 in Morrow County.

Comparing top salaries is like apples and oranges since in one school district it may take 18 years and a PH.D. while at another it may only take 12 years and an M.A. plus 45 additional hours of course work. We compared a hypothetical teacher with 12 years of experience and a Master's degree. Hermiston pays \$29,027, Pendleton pays \$29,112 and Morrow County pays \$26,595 for that same hypothetical teacher.

Of course, it is true that other things could be compared; some would show a downward trend from then to now and from here to there. (The market value of my house is down 25% from a year ago and Echo pays a beginning teacher \$16,465.) We could even make some comparisons of unlike items. (A regular route truck driver for CF makes \$47,000/yr. while a dishwasher earns \$3.35/hr.)

As I see it, comparisons of other things at other times and other places only serve as a guide to our own decision here and now. And only one of several factors to be considered. Quality, or the desire for quality, is often a factor in the marketplace that overrides "the market price." Time utility frequently is a factor. Social, political and psychological factors often are involved.

It is a real mistake to make all of our own decisions based on what the Jones' are doing. (Just as it is a mistake to ignore what the Jones' are doing.) Purely objective criteria are almost always shaded by the emotional. And if we recognize that, we can most often make the kind of decision that we will not regret soon after.

The current school teacher contract dispute, in my opinion, has gone without decision so long now that there can never be a "good" contract. Emotions are running so high on both sides and among our friends and neighbors that if agreement were reached today, those emotional scars will never heal.

I think every person in the district should demand a settlement now. A settlement by the teachers at the board's offer, or a settlement by the board at the teachers' demand (or any place in between). Now would be far more beneficial to the district than even one more day of dispute.

(Next week I'll set out my own settlement proposal. I hope it is not necessary. I'd rather write about the winters I remember in Wallowa County.)

Weddings

Fitzsimmons — Howard

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Fitzsimmons of Heppner announce the marriage of their daughter, Pvt. Jeanie Fitzsimmons, Ft. Belvoir, Va. to Pvt. James L. Howard, also of Ft. Belvoir, originally from Brandenburg, Ky.

They were married in Virginia on February 3, 1989 one day prior to his leaving for his duty station in Germany. Jeanie will be joining him in a few weeks as soon as she graduates from AIT training.

They will be stationed in Germany for 2 1/2 years.

Letters to the Editor

Pinewood race is successful

To the Editor:

The Heppner Elks Lodge hosted Cub Scout Pack 661 Pinewood Derby Race last Tuesday. There was a lot of preparation to be done for the Pinewood Race to be successful. Without the support of the Elks Lodge and people who offered their

time and support such as Gene and Harriet Hall, J.J. Shaw, and moms and dads of our children we sure wouldn't have had so much fun. It sure makes you feel good when your town gets behind you for support.

(s) Carol Williams
Webelos Leader

Negotiations need to be "hammered out"

To the Editor:

Now that both the Morrow County Teachers and the School Board have taken their respective positions "to the public," an interesting enigma appears. With 140 teachers, each of whom have four or more years of post high school education on the one side, and with seven elected board members and their equally well educated administrators on the other side, there is in evidence not a mere 3-semester-hour course in political science.

The "public" campaigns to date barely rate a passing grade in a sophomore class in civics. Worse, efforts to incite riot in the populace are unworthy of either cause. To attempt to resolve the matter by dividing the taxpayers, patrons, parents, families and friends in Mor-

row County, one against the other, for years to come, bespeaks the absolute professional, political and social failure of both sides to meet their public duty.

Minuscule as it is, the effort expended by either side to garner "public" support, would have been more than adequate had it been diverted instead to straight forward negotiation toward a settlement.

It is time for both sides to do their public duty by submerging themselves in eye-ball to eye-ball, around the clock, marathon negotiations with no thought of coming up for air until a contract is hammered out, signed, sealed and delivered. It is time for every citizen in Morrow County to demand no less.

Yours truly,
(s)Ed Glenn
Boardman

Sheriff's Report

The Morrow County Sheriff's office at the courthouse in Heppner reports dispatching the following business during the past week:

Jan. 30: Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Arlington ambulance to a one car rollover at the Arlington Bridge on I-84. No transport was made.

Morrow County deputy began investigation of report of criminal trespass in the Boardman area.

Morrow County deputy responded to report of a vehicle accident. One vehicle was in the ditch on S Main near Kunze road. There were no injuries. No one was around the vehicle upon deputy's arrival.

Jan. 31: Morrow County assisted Oregon State Police in a two vehicle accident about a half mile from Ruggs on highway 207. There were no injuries.

Feb. 2: Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Boardman fire department to a residential fire at 116 N.W. Park Ave.

Morrow County deputy assisted Boardman Police department with an arrest for Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants.

Feb. 3: Morrow County deputy and Oregon State Police/Umatilla handled a report of domestic disturbance on Division in Irrigon. David J. Flanagan, 19, was arrested for Assault IV, and lodged.

Feb. 4: Morrow County deputy responded to Hwy 730 at the county line to perform a welfare check.

Feb. 5: Morrow County deputy arrested Felipe Madrano, 30, of Hermiston, on a Hermiston warrant for Contempt of Court. Madrano was released to the custody of the Hermiston Police department.

Morrow County Sheriff's office assisted a family from the Lexington area in locating an overdue juvenile.

Morrow County deputy began the investigation into a report of a younger subject riding a dirt bike in the Wagon Wheel addition. Subject was reckless and caused road damage outside of Irrigon.

Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Boardman ambulance to report of a female with an unknown illness on Columbia Blvd. Subject was transported to Good Shepherd Hospital.

Feb. 6: During the week of January 30-February 6, Morrow County Sheriff's office assisted two disabled motorists.

Justice Court Report

The Justice Court department at the courthouse annex in Heppner reports handling the following business during the past week:

Edwin H. Miller Jr., Heppner-Disobeyed Stop Sign, \$13 fine;

Jay Arthur Coil, Heppner-Defective Equipment, \$9 fine;

James R. Norris, Portland-Unlawful Use of Motor Vehicle in a Cooperative Road Closure Area, \$30 fine;

James Vergial Nelson, Portland-Unlawful Use of Motor Vehicle in a Cooperative Road Closure Area, \$30 fine.

Heppner Parent's Club
CARNIVAL
For Kids of all ages
at
Morrow County Fair Pavilion
Saturday, Feb. 11
Carnival...6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Lots of Games and FUN!
Plinko - Chip Toss - Tic-Tac-Toe - Goldfish Toss
Face Painting - Lollipop Garden - Balloon Darts
Duck Scoop - Pop Toss - Spin The Wheel - Fish Pond
Ad sponsored by: Sun Marine & Kahl Insurance

Valentines Day
Pizza Special
Tuesday
Feb. 14th

Two-Topping Pizza
Two-All-You Can Eat Salad Bars
Pitcher of Pop
only \$14.00
5 p.m. till closing

New Movies This Week
Caddy Shack II Star Light Hotel
Tiger Warsaw Good Mother

Kate's Pizza & Pastry
Heppner 676-5017

We Have Everything You Need To Fix-up After the Big Freeze!

Plumbing Supplies

Coast-to-Coast
We can help you.

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

T-Bone	
Steak	\$3.00 lb.
Bacon 16 oz.	\$1.39 ea.
Margarine 1 lb. Quarters	1st 4 69¢ ea.
Napkins 60 count	39¢ ea.
Cheese 2 lb. Med. Loaf	\$4.50 ea.
Eggs Medium Size	85¢ doz.
Cake Mix	89¢ ea.
Pepsi Products 12 pack cans	\$3.00 plus dep.
Cauliflower	49¢ lb.
Radishes & Gr. Onions 4 bun. for	99¢
Carrots	29¢ lb.
Turkey Breasts	\$1.49 lb.
Rib Steak	\$2.70 lb.

Prices good Feb. 9th - 13th
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK - 7 A.M. - 6 P.M.

OREGON LOTTERY Court Street Market
111 N. Court Heppner 676-9643