

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.

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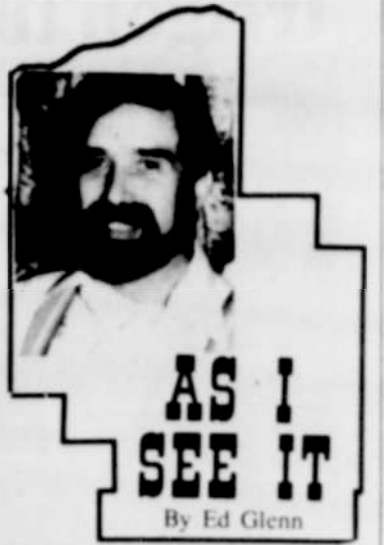
David and April Sykes, Publishers

Money does not make better teacher

To the Editor:
Could you please put my editorial in your paper. Regarding our school teacher or instructor salary problems in Morrow County.
Various letters in our papers seem to blame the school board, and others remark the teachers is problem.
First and foremost the teachers are employees of Morrow County. The employers is the registered voters and in general land owners. The school board is acting on information they have gathered from the employers. Our conditions and times in the county is not good. Plus the present taxes that is paid now is more than the people can handle. The allowable 6 percent increase for each year is too much of a tax increase. This is a law that has to be changed at once.

money does not buy a better education. Nor does money make a poor teacher better. Upon graduation the young people have proven this point. Ask some of your local employers.
What we have in Morrow County is a very low income base standard. Many of the farm workers work for \$7 per hour and less. This is poverty level. Also quite a few of good salary persons that work in Morrow County live in Umatilla County.
A good many years ago, I chose my profession and I stayed with it, good and poor. There was periods my wages were cut. I accepted that and if I felt I could do better at times, I chose to move on and try for something better. With an open mind you will understand my message.
(s) Murray Findlay
Boardman

A Plan for Settlement



We've had occasion to review some of the factors in the current school teacher contract dispute and have our own plan for settlement. We know that it will not meet with the wholehearted approval of either the teachers nor the board but that's the peril they run when they fail to settle the issue between themselves and resort to taking their case to the public.
A couple of factors that figure in the formula: The board is backed by a "zero" increase budget by reason of the voters' rejection of an operating budget increase. All the hate and nasty things teachers have leveled at the board pass right on through to the voters who voted "no" and that's a majority of them.
On the other hand, the district does have some exceptionally good teachers who are paid far less than they should be. Experienced, well educated teachers are paid less than similar teachers in most districts of the state and Morrow County stands to lose its best teachers for that reason.
Until we demand a merit pay system, we will continue to overpay the mediocre and underpay the best. If we don't at least stay competitive with the rest of the state, we will attract and accumulate the poorer part of the lot and our schools will deteriorate in quality. As that becomes more evident to our taxpayers, they will continue to reject our budget requests which will make competitive salaries more and more difficult. It's a never ending spiral.
Three years ago, the teachers and the district negotiated a contract which provided for substantially greater increases on the lower end of the scale than on the upper. For example, a teacher that started in 1984 at \$14,278 now earns \$19,708, an increase of 38% while a teacher with 23 years of experience earned \$27,715 in 1984 and \$31,176 today, an increase of only 12.5%. In that same period of time, the Portland CPI rose 11.5% and Social Security benefits increased by 16.1%. Experienced teachers had less than a "fixed" income but younger teachers' salaries went up faster than the cost of living to reflect their greater skills gained through greater experience (about 6% per year).
The idea three years ago was to increase the salary schedule more heavily at the low end to attract the best of the new teachers and it succeeded in making our 1988-89 beginning salaries competitive with neighboring districts and about midway among districts across the state. The plan this year was to make it up with heavier increases on the high end in order to keep the best of those new teachers. And we need to do just that. Somehow that plan has been lost along the way.
Our suggested settlement looks like this:
For 1988-89 we would increase salaries as follows:
- Teachers with fewer than eight years experience-0%; teachers with 8 to 12 years experience-1%; teachers with 13 to 14 years experience-2% teachers with more than 14 years experience 5%.
For 1989-90 and 90-91: Increase all positions by the change in the Cost of Living Index.
This schedule would correct the imbalance between beginning and more experienced teachers that now exists and would assure all teachers that inflation would not actually reduce those salaries in years to come.
On other issues we suggest:
Allow a modest increase in professional travel allowances, continue the present scheme of the district paying 95% of insurance premiums, with teachers paying 5% but allowing the district to shop for insurance carriers, and continue the present language regarding temporary teachers and professional education requirements. We would not require "fair share" payments from teachers who are not union members.
About half the teachers would be involved in the "zero" bracket, but that's the half that appear to be competitively paid now. The half that would have some percentage increase are the very half that now appear underpaid by comparison with surrounding districts and the state as a whole.
We think the announced failure of either side to reach agreement on their own has invited proposals from far and wide. We are glad to have had the opportunity.

Letters to the Editor

Some teachers are opening their files

To the Editor:
Dear friends of Morrow County: Teachers are opening their files. What does this mean? It means that some of the most talented of Morrow County are looking for new jobs in other places. I hear words such as, "I refuse to live my life under stress," or "if they think I have done nothing for kids, then I'm leaving." I hear people say, "the people value the schools but they don't like teachers." Without teachers you only have buildings.
There has been a lot of talk about the United States being bought by Japan. People of Morrow County, let me tell you how professionals are paid in Japan. They are the highest paid public servants. Their pay is higher than or equal to that of engineers. Here in the United States school teachers are the lowest paid professional.
Everyone has a different idea of what should be cut. Cut the teachers, cut the computers, cut the administrators, cut the band, cut the sports, cut the buses, cut the old teachers, cut the music, cut the new teachers, cut the art teachers, cut the Morrow County residents, we just cut education. Please take a careful look and begin to evaluate what type of program and what type of teacher you want teaching your children and your grandchildren.
I heard one parent say, "I don't care if they burn the damn books."

This is a very sad statement. This country was based on freedom and on education. I'm praying that fairness and responsibility returns to Morrow County. It is people just like you that ultimately decide the fate of teachers, education, and our future values. Ask questions and seek answers because there is more at risk than a 4.5% cost of living raise.
The board has sent you several so called newsletters. I call them lavender flies because they are full of errors, misconceptions and just seem to buzz, buzz, buzz. Yes, that district office is right, 0.1% is quite modest and is also quite ridiculous. They have known about the Sam Boardman roof and about the asbestos problem for years. They testified under oath that "the district does not claim an inability to pay. It is unwilling to pay."
Our school board says their salary scale is comparable. Yes, it is for beginning teachers, but they forgot to mention the middle of the salary scale. I would make approximately \$2,000 more in Hermiston or Pendleton with fully paid insurance. I can not take a \$50 per month cut in pay this year and probably \$50 more the following year. I ask the parents of the 400 kids that I have taught, kissed and loved to stand up and be counted. Please come and question the Board February 16 and February 21.

Love
(s) Kay Dawson

Mandatory 'fair share' is denial of freedom of choice

To the Editor:
I want to express thanks to the school board for their information note dated February 8, on fair share (agency shop). It is important that we citizens have an understanding of this issue. Only a small percentage of the dues to the NEA is used to develop educational programs. Most of the money is used to promote the political and social agenda of the NEA. There must be a great many

teachers who do not support the programs the union sponsors. To force people to finance programs they cannot morally endorse is certainly a denial of freedom of choice. I hope the people of this county will back the school board on the issue of fair share. We need to guard carefully the individual's right to choose in this area.

(s) Corrine Miles
Heppner

The Adventures of Grazelda & Clem...
(After Hours)
6:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Clem Crooned: "Hey, Grazelda, How About shooten on down to Miller's Mini Mart & Chevron, and pickin me up some bath soap?"
Grazelda gushed: "Oh boy, Clem, I didn't think you would ever get that water thawed out so I could take a nice hot bath!"
Clem Chirped: "Hal Ha! Grazelda, I did'nt get the water thawed out, but I have a better idea. You go on out and get you some snow...start you a fire...Hey Grazelda, what are you gonna do with that baseball bat?!"

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See Us For Your Needs

Coast to Coast
We can help you.

Sheriff's Report

The Sheriff's office at the courthouse in Heppner reports dispatching the following business during the past week:
Feb. 6: Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Heppner ambulance to a residence on Linden Way. One female was transported to Pioneer Memorial Hospital;
Morrow County deputy investigated a possible assault IV domestic that occurred outside of Irigun. No arrests were made at this time;
Morrow County deputy began investigation of a missing horse. This occurred at Eastern Oregon Farms. Details were unknown at this time.
Feb. 7: Morrow County Sheriff's office received a report of a careless driver incident on February 6 outside of Heppner City Limits on the Pilot Rock Highway.
Feb. 8: Morrow County dispatched a deputy to a report of an accident at Cutsforth Corners on Highway 207. Deputy did not make contact with the driver but is still investigating the accident.
Feb. 9: Morrow County deputy arrested Donald Harry Collins, 50, of Heppner, on an Albany Warrant for Assault IV and Criminal Trespass II. Subject posted bail, was given a court date and released.
Feb. 10: Morrow County dispatched the Arlington ambulance to the high school parking lot where a ten year old boy had been hit by a car. He was taken to Good Shepherd Hospital in Hermiston.
Feb. 11: Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Boardman fire department to a fire on E. Columbia Blvd. A Boardman officer was on the scene.

Morrow County deputy responded to West Kunze Road outside of Boardman in reference to a report of suspicious circumstances. The area was found to be secure, investigation is continuing.
Morrow County deputy began the investigation into the criminal mischief complaint filed involving a damaged mailbox. Victim is Richard Bruhn of Irigun.
Morrow County Sheriff's office dispatched the Boardman fire department to a report of fire at the Boardman Baptist Church;
Morrow County Sheriff's office assisted Boardman Police department in arrest of a Boardman male for Assault IV;
Morrow County deputy assisted Boardman officer with a civil matter;
Morrow County deputy responded to S. Paul Smith Road outside of Boardman to report of a loud party and several individuals driving rapidly and recklessly.
Feb. 12: Morrow County deputy assisted Boardman Police department with a reported burglary at a business on Marine Drive in Boardman.
During the week of Feb. 6-13, Morrow County did not assist any disabled motorists.

Justice Court Report

The Justice Court office at the courthouse annex in Heppner reports handling the following business during the past week:
Virginia Lynne Olson, Umatilla-Illegal U Turn, \$17 fine;
Brian Robert Bonallo, Richland, WA-Exceeding the Maximum Speed, 70 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$57 bail forfeited;
Danny Dean Oglesbee, Heppner-Exceeding the Maximum Speed, 65 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$26 bail forfeited;
David Flanagan, Irigun-Assault IV, \$287 fine and one year probation, attend mental health counseling.

Road Report

The crusher has been moved to Upper Rhea Creek, located on Shirley Ruggs. There will be approximately 20,000 yards of rock crushed to be used for the sub base on the Rhea Creek, Bassig Canyon Project, plus other needs for roads in the immediate area. The plan is to move the crusher back to Willow Creek by mid March for the completion of rock crushing for the Willow Creek Project.
The reconstruction of Paul Smith Road, in Boardman, has started. The pipe laying for the irrigation ditch has been completed. This work was contracted and the County Road Crew is to do the reconstruction of the road. The paving will be contracted later.
Open weather has allowed the continuance of road blading and graveling.
Pot hole patching is being done, along with the replacement of several road signs.
Winter arrived this past week with snow, wind and below normal temperatures, keeping the road department busy plowing snow and sanding roads.
Strong winds caused drifting in some areas making those roads a priority. All roads have been opened up.
With the long cold and low temperatures, load limit posting will be going into effect as warmer temperatures arrive in order to keep road breakup to a minimum.
The road department is asking for and will appreciate the cooperation from all county road users during the period of time load limits are on.
Feel free to call with any questions or concerns, 676-9061.

*In this world of uncertainty
We two have found each other...
different yet alike
We have grown together in
love and understanding.
Shirley Reddin and Don Majeske
invite you to share in
the joy of their marriage
on Saturday, February 25,
Nineteen hundred and eighty-nine
at two o'clock in the afternoon
First Lutheran Church
214 North Fourth Street
St. Helens, Oregon.*

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

Beef	
Round Steak	\$1.89 lb.
Corn King	
Braunsweiger	79¢ lb.
Boneless	
Pork Chops	\$2.39 lb.
Bar-S	
Ham extra lean-whole	\$1.79 lb.
Fresh-Crisp	
Celery	39¢ lb.
Fresh	
Mushrooms 8 oz. pkg.	79¢ ea.
Fresh	
Broccoli	59¢ lb.
Western Family, individually sliced	
Cheese 12 oz.	\$1.49 ea.
Western Family	
Whipped Topping 8 oz.	69¢ ea.
12 pack cans	
Coke-7up- Dr. Pepper	\$3.00 plus dep.

Prices good Feb. 16th. - 20th
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK - 7 A.M. - 6 P.M.

Court Street Market
111 N. Court Heppner 676-9643

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