

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 Strubbers Graphics Department
 Gail Papineau Graphics Department
 Becky Evans Distribution

David and April Sykes, Publishers

Open letter to Doyle McCaslin

To the Editor:
 This is an open letter to Mr. Doyle McCaslin, Morrow County School Superintendent.

Dear Mr. McCaslin:
 How dare you threaten me. I support my husband, and I believe in him. Whatever decision he makes, he makes with my blessing.

So, how dare you write me a personal letter threatening me, or using "scare tactics" to influence my husband's decision concerning the impending strike.

When did we become so familiar that you can address me by my first name? I have only seen you twice, and the first time I had to introduce myself to you. The second time, you walked past me on the street and

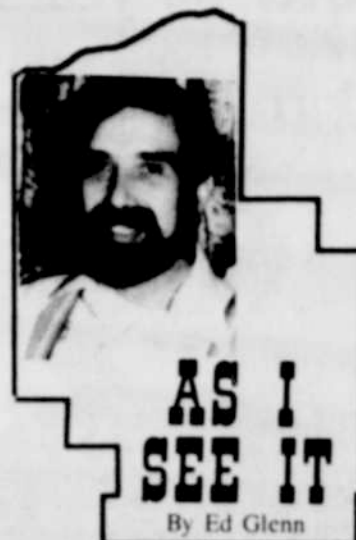
never even nodded your head. So you see, we aren't even nodding acquaintances, and are not likely to become so.

We have lived in Heppner and worked here since 1965. I suspect we will be here long after you are gone. We have never had a supervisor or superintendent interfere with our personal life. I have never interfered with my husband's job, so what makes you think you can interfere with my job as a housewife and spouse.

I understand a similar letter from you was mailed to all the spouses of all the teachers--Shame on you!

Very Sincerely,
 (s) Karen L. Holland
 Teacher's wife

In the Public Service



We've had occasion over the years to serve in a variety of public offices. Employed as a Deputy State Public Defender, contracted as a trial level Public Defender, elected to a school board and appointed to a variety of state and local boards and commissions, we've seen the public service from many angles.

We've even been called upon to serve as a national, state and local taxpayer.

We've also seen private enterprise from several points of view: customer, entrepreneur, employee, owner, employer.

The difference between private enterprise and public service, we think, is self. The private sector runs well when every participant acts on selfish motives. The customer always buys at the lowest possible price he can find, the entrepreneur always tries to make the highest possible profit. The employee seeks the highest wage for the least amount of effort and the employer tries to get the best possible help for the lowest possible salary.

Everyone in the private sector acts in their own selfish interest. But it's different in the public sector.

Some things can only be done by some form of "public" entity and cannot be done as well by any private business. National defense, for example, is best provided by an armed force maintained by a national government. We remember a time when service in the armed forces was an obligation each of us owed for the privilege of living in America, an obligation readily accepted and honorably fulfilled.

And we remember when paying income taxes to support such an armed force was a patriotic duty proudly performed.

We think the difference was "selflessness."

That certainly is true about the literally hundreds of folks who spend their time sitting through thousands of meetings, making tens of thousands of decisions in the name of the public. There must be dozens of state boards and commissions, hundreds of city councils, planning commissions, park and fire district boards and thousands of other committees where citizens selflessly lend their good judgement, sound experience and good common sense to pursue the public good.

And we expect a great deal of them. We expect them to always make the "right" decision without consideration for their own economic, political or social interests. We set up elaborate rules to assure their "ethics," to prevent their "conflicts of interest," and to guarantee their accountability. In short, we demand their absolute selflessness.

That expectation is not limited to the unpaid, volunteer board and commission members. It extends to paid public employees as well. We expect much more from a dump truck driver working for the county than one working for a private contractor. Because it's our tax dollars that pay them, we expect public employees to work harder, longer and to do better than their private sector counterparts, and for a lower salary. We tolerate a large degree of selfishness in private business, but we expect absolute selflessness in the public service, even of the same people doing the same kind of work.

And after all isn't that the way it ought to be? In a private deal you will look out for yourself and I will look out for myself and the better of us will prevail. But in a public matter, I expect you to look after the public interest (and that includes my own) even to the expense of your own interest.

As I see it, serving the public interest is a very difficult job. Some folks are just not up to it, to be sure. But we should all thank our lucky stars for those who try.

Why in the world would anyone step up to serve as a school board member in these times of turmoil? I can't imagine. But for at least one position there are several candidates.

Why would anyone want to serve as a port commissioner or a planning commission member or in any number of other elective or appointive positions? Especially with hard issues either at hand or just over the horizon? We're happy they are.

And public employees? They must either be out of their mind, or considerably more selfless than I.

Letters to the Editor

Woman disappointed at handling of issues

To the Editor:
 Dear Teachers:
 I have been a supporter to your cause for many months. I believe most teachers deserve more pay than they are receiving in Morrow County. You are, after all, the people we are entrusting the future of our children to.

But I must tell you, I have been really disappointed with the way these issues have been handled. You are being represented by a Union that has your best interest at heart, right? But what about the best interest of our children? What about what is best for Morrow County and its residents? Other major employers in this county have been forced to lay many people off, and make major cutbacks in wages and benefits to those who remain. Your employer is not cutting back your wages, they are offering increases (no matter how slight). Your benefits have not been reduced, they are being frozen where they are currently. If the premiums are raised, ask your union to look for a company with lower premiums.

The voters have turned down the school budget many times in recent months. The economy is such that they are about taxed out. Yet, you choose this time to push to a strike situation for such large increases. This to me does not make good sense.

I would also like to address the letter I received yesterday. The letter

expressed your concern about our children's safety and why are the 'teachers calling the strike'? Why are the negotiations at a standstill with NO ONE listening?

Your letter also suggested (quite subtly I must add), that we should keep our children home during the strike. Do you really think discontinuing our children's education because the teacher choose to walk out is really in their best interest? I also found it quite appalling, that you would want us, the parents, to question our administrator's abilities to hire quality substitutes. If they are to be questioned in this fashion, maybe we should have looked at their ability to hire "quality" permanent teachers of the present.

I have the utmost respect and appreciation for the job most teachers do. They must be compensated for the effort put forth. But in this situation, more must be taken into consideration than just the best interest of our teachers. Do not forget the best interest of our children! Wasn't that why you wanted to teach in the first place?

Also, don't forget that when this is settled, and it will be settled, you will be left to answer for your actions long after your Union representatives and mediators have left town.

Thoughtfully yours
 (s) Kathy Moore
 P. O. Box 12
 Boardman, Or. 97818

Oil company offers solution to contract negotiations

To the Editor:
 This week the staff at Russell Oil Company were sitting around discussing the contract problems between the Morrow County School District Board and the Teachers Union. We came up with a solution maybe not as eloquent as Stafford Hansell's, but effective, we believe none the less. First get rid of the paid professional negotiators on both sides. This is a local problem and we can solve it without Willamette Valley Labor Attorneys. If you think these guys are helping, then remember what the 1,000 Friends of Oregon cost the Port of Morrow. Secondly, we need a single

spokesman for the teachers. Larry French would be a good candidate because he has been in the district a long time and is level headed. Take Larry French along with Dwayne Carroll, another level headed guy, and stick them in the back room of the Lexington Tavern with a gallon of whiskey. No one would be allowed in or out until the whiskey is gone or the problem is solved. It is our guess that these two guys could solve the problem.

Yours very truly,
 (s) Donald E. Russell
 Steven P. Doherty
 Carol A. Marchek
 Dale Baker
 William I. Ellis

Are board members interested in stopping strike?

To the Editor:
 Morrow County School Board members have no interest in stopping a teacher strike. They refused to meet with teachers last Saturday despite offers to resume talks. Teachers were prepared to offer them a proposal of 4.2%; this is less than the factfinder's report of 4.5% for cost of living.

Here are some other facts worth thinking about:

--budget audit proves there is a \$1,938,000 carry-over in funds. Why does the board say there is no money?

--the current budget includes \$143,279 for teacher salary increases. This money is there now for salaries without a tax increase. Why does the board refuse to use it?

--why does the board say we need to cut back on expenses and at the same time make plans to: 1) hire a business manager for the next school year at a beginning salary of \$35,000, plus full insurance and fringe benefits; 2) hire an assistant principal for Riverside High School for 1/2 administrative salary, plus full insurance and fringe benefits. (1989-90 year).

Multiply these salaries by three

years (number of teacher contract years) add insurance and cost of living raises; you should get a figure of over \$200,000. Are these two people worth more than all the teachers now working in the district? Why does the board feel they can add two positions with no money for salaries?

The school district has a current (Jan. 31, 1989 audit) total investment figure of \$4,652,212.14. Four million dollars of this total is in certificates of deposit. The rest of the money is in savings and checking accounts in various banks. The school district cannot say they have no money.

Give your teachers the dignity and respect they deserve. There is money to fund teacher salaries without raising taxes. Don't accept run-around answers from board members. Get specifics.

Attend the informational meeting this Thursday, March 2, 7 p.m. at the Irrigon Senior Center. Call the strike crisis headquarters at these numbers: 481-2055 and 676-9254.

(s) Marilyn Ornelas
 Irrigon
 (s) Jennifer Wade
 Boardman

Parent chooses to not send children to school

To the Editor:
 Will my children attend regular classes when the teachers strike this week? No.

My reasons? Concern for the mental and physical safety of my children.

How do I know that the replacement teachers are not homosexual, communist, past felons, drug users, or sexual offenders? They are virtual strangers to me and this community, selected because they currently for "some obscure reason" have been unable to secure a teaching job in any other community in Oregon. They are "rejects" who have been selected by the Morrow County School Board "in a pinch".

I personally know a certified teacher who was ousted from a school district (in eastern Oregon) with glowing recommendations

because he is a lousy teacher, and this was the fastest and easiest way to exit him from their district. It happens every day.

Can I trust the responsibility for my child's welfare on a day to day basis to such a person in these circumstances? I can not. I will not.

What percentage of seniors have been denied graduation in the history of Oregon based upon absence from school during a teacher strike? Zero percentage.

I have a parental obligation to my children. Placing them in the hands of substitute teachers in this situation is not in their best interests. I would be in fact subjecting them to unknown factors that could risk their physical and moral safety.

Is the risk worth it? No.
 (s) Wanda Tracy
 Boardman

What's a strike worth to you?

To the Editor:
 These are trying times in Morrow County. We have the "North" against the "South" in a whole new and frightening way. It's not the North end against the South end, because in this issue we both are going to lose, it's not even the teachers against the School Board, it is reality is neighbors against neighbors, and even friends against friends. I don't honestly believe the wounds from this "war" will heal for quite a while, and the scars will last forever. Money seems to be the issue, but in effect it will be children ages 6-18 that will bear the brunt of the scars from this present confrontation. I believe that should a strike be called, the teachers brought in cannot possibly pick up where the present educators left off, as they must first learn the ways of our system. They won't even know the names of our children. It will be very confusing to many students to have someone new, and even frightening to many of the younger children.

I wonder how many of our children's qualified educators will opt to leave this county that chooses not to support them, and I wonder how much education will be lost in the process.

I personally classify my children's teachers importance in our lives as second only to our doctor. They nurture their minds and help to produce the type of adults that can be an asset to our community and that we can be proud of.

I'm afraid that the stone thrown by the lack of community support is going to be like a rock in a pool of water. The waves of problems caus-

ed by that one stone will go on and on. How many good teachers will we lose? How many friends will be gone? What is it worth to you? I am one who supports the teachers!
 (s) Gail Papineau

Wallace Wolff M.D.
 advises
**Patients In Need of
 Record Transfers To
 Mail a Dated and Signed
 Request to Him at Box 785
 Heppner, By March 17th.**

UNDERCARRIAGE REPAIR

- NEW & REBUILT RAILS - RIMS - ROLLERS
- MACHINE BUILD-UP OF IDLERS & ROLLERS
- RERIM SPROCKETS
- DESIGN & BUILD OUR OWN CABS & PRESSURIZER UNITS
- TRACK PRESS TO TURN OR REPLACE PIN & BUSHINGS

FREE Estimates

B&C REPAIRS, INC.
 422-7409 109E, OREGON 422-7418

LOOK OUT!

NOW THAT WE HAVE YOUR ATTENTION

Last week we ran an ad asking people to donate items for a fund raising auction. Proceeds from the auction are to be used to help finance the St. Patrick's Day weekend celebration and activities.

So far we have only received a couple of the items locally. We have some items donated by celebrities but that will only comprise a small part of the auction.

To support a good cause, look around the house, in the garage, in the basement or the closet and see what you might find. It can be something new, something used, something big, or something small; an antique or a unique, a collectible, memorabilia, or some type of service.

We would like to have all items by March 14 so we can prepare an auction list for distribution. Please contact one of the following people and we will gladly see that your donated item is picked up. Thanks for your support.

Pat Sweeney 676-9226 Mark Painter 989-8572
 Charlie Anderson 676-5182 Jerry Healy 676-5240
 John McCabe 676-5231

Court Street Market

CHECK OUR EVERYDAY LOW PRICES
 WHERE YOUR DOLLAR MAKES MORE CENTS

Fresh	Brusel Sprouts	39¢ lb.
Large	Green Peppers	4 for 99¢
Dry	Yellow Onions	19¢ lb.
Beef	Cube Steak	\$2.49 lb.
Beef	Rib Steak	\$2.59 lb.
Tide	Detergent	147 oz. \$6.99 ea.
Gold & Soft	Margarine 1 lb. tub	79¢ ea.
Western Family	Large Eggs	95¢ doz.
Banquet, cooking bag	Entrees 4 to 5 oz.	2 for 99¢

Prices good March 2nd. - 6th
 OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK - 7 A.M. - 6 P.M.
Court Street Market
 111 N. Court Heppner 676-9643