

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

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Teacher says goodbye

To the Editor:
Enclosed you will find a copy of the letter of resignation that I have written to the board of the Morrow County School District, Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, the principal of Heppner High and the Heppner Gazette. You may print that letter and this letter together or just this letter to the editor which ever is best for you.

I would like to take this space to thank my colleagues for the support and friendship you have freely given me in my eleven years at Heppner. It's been a pleasure working with you.

There are also those parents, students and citizens that have supported myself and teachers in general. There is no way that I or anyone can express our thanks to you for your continued support even during this crisis. You have been my joy and the reason that I have continued teaching until now in Heppner. My resignation is in no way a wish to disrupt the learning process of your children. The school board has already done that by refusing to negotiate. If I felt that I could be an effective teacher for the remainder of the school year I would hasten to do so. Unfortunately, I know that under the circumstances, I can not. I, therefore, am stepping aside to let someone else have the opportunity to educate the students of Morrow County.

It is my wish that the students treat the person who fills that position at Heppner with high respect for their

knowledge, ability and willingness to step into a very stressful situation and do the job.

I regret that I can not talk with each of you personally and convey my thanks and thought. My letter of resignation and this letter to the general public will have to suffice. Thank you again and goodbye.

Sincerely,
(s) Karen Marie Howe

Mr. Doyle McCaslin
Superintendent
Morrow County Public Schools
Lexington, Oregon 97839
Mr. McCaslin,

This is a letter of resignation. I hereby resign from the position of Mathematics instructor at Heppner High School effective immediately upon your receipt of this letter.

This resignation is due to the fact that the board refuses to negotiate in good faith with the teachers of Morrow County. I can not work effectively in a position where I'm not treated with respect or fairness. There are job opportunities available to me where the employees are treated with common decency. Since the board seems unable to offer this to me or any of the district employees, I am resigning.

A copy of this letter is being delivered to the school board chairman to be read and acted upon at the next board meeting, Mr. James Bier, Mr. Chuck Starr, the E.O. and the Heppner Gazette to insure that I am not misquoted.

Sincerely,
(s) Karen Marie Howe

Courage and determination are to be admired

To the Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the Morrow County School Board and to the thirteen non-striking teachers. Your courage and determination are to be admired.

My appreciation also goes to our school board for holding firm. I feel the settlement arrived at by the board is one the taxpayers of this county can live with.

I truly wish someone would explain to me the reason for a two week strike that was ended by agreeing to the same basic terms as were offered before the strike. The respect and trust we felt towards our

teachers has been seriously damaged, and in some cases destroyed. I really don't see where there are many champions left teaching in lone or any other school in Morrow County. The letter about the many roads traveled only confused me more.

I have lived in Morrow County all my life. I have no desire to live anywhere else. I believe that our children are lucky to be able to grow up in this environment. I hope they can continue to receive a high grade education here. They truly deserve it and are the reason our schools are here.

(s) Mark Pointer
Lexington

Chamber urges yes vote on Port Bond

To the Editor:

Heppner Chamber of Commerce encourages a yes vote March 28 on the Port of Morrow G.O. bond election.

Passage of the G.O. bond will enable the Port to continue to invest in the future of Morrow County. This general operating bond will be used to retire the port's current debt and to correct the waterfront erosion, thus permitting earnings from the dock operation to be used for maintenance and improvement of the dock facilities. The Findley Buttes Landfill will require the docks to be in good condition. An efficient dock means increased use and industrial potential. The bond will provide \$50,000 for the acquisition and development of property in south Morrow County. When potential

light industry, possibly value added type, is recruited or indicates an interest in our county, the site needs to be available. Planning ahead keeps a community healthy.

Based on Morrow County's current value of \$760,000,000, the measure will cost approximately 10 cents per thousand of valuation, a good investment for Port of Morrow industrial development and improvement.

If you have any questions, Chamber urges you to contact the Port Commissioners and to visit the Port to learn what an important asset it is in Morrow County.

Sincerely,
(s) Forrest Burkenbine, Pres.
Heppner Chamber of Commerce
(s) Claudia Hughes, Manager

Evaluate ballot measures

Given the recent state of affairs in Morrow County, and the fact we have just gone through a gut wrenching teacher's strike; is there any way to judge voter reaction to the upcoming election next Tuesday? The strike has left a bitter taste in many people's mouths, and whether that bitterness will spill over to the ballot next Tuesday is yet to be seen.

Strictly speaking the strike and next Tuesday's ballot measures have absolutely nothing in common. The Port of Morrow is seeking a general obligation bond to finance improvements. The county is asking for an operating levy with a modest 5.5 percent increase over last year. And the medical fund is looking for a levy which is about equal.

Do these measures have anything in common with the recent troubles in our school system? The answer, of course, is yes and no. Yes because people may be fed up with government and all that resembles government, causing a backlash of no votes in next week's election. And of course the answer is no, because the three measures having nothing to do with the school system.

The Port's general obligation bond will allow for development and utility reductions on port property that will greatly affect the future economic well being of our county. The county must have money to operate, and provide us with the services we all want, but usually don't want to pay for. And the medical fund will pay for medical services that are showing more promise and vision than we have witnessed for quite some time.

What all this has to do with the recent troubles in the school system, is absolutely nothing.

Separate evaluation of each ballot measure and a vote based on that evaluation is what is called for now. Not a blanket rejection of all that is placed before us on election day, based solely on the emotional upheavals of the past several months.

David Sykes

Letters to the Editor

Editors Note: There was a typographical error in last week's paper in the Letters to the Editor column. In a letter from John Bristow regarding the Port of Morrow

Obligation Bond, the amount levied should have been 10c per thousand dollars of assessed property evaluation, not to exceed 20 years.

Spring SPRUCE-UP PAINT SALE

Soft Touch ONE COAT Latex Flat Wall Paint **SAVE \$5** **9.99**

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Soft Touch ONE COAT Latex Flat Enamel **SAVE \$5** **12.99**

Soft Touch Kitchen & Bath Enamel **15.99**

Aluminum Step Ladders **29.99** **32.99**

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Deluxe Tray Set **7.99**

Coast to Coast
HEPPNER 676-9961

Show you care

To the Editor:

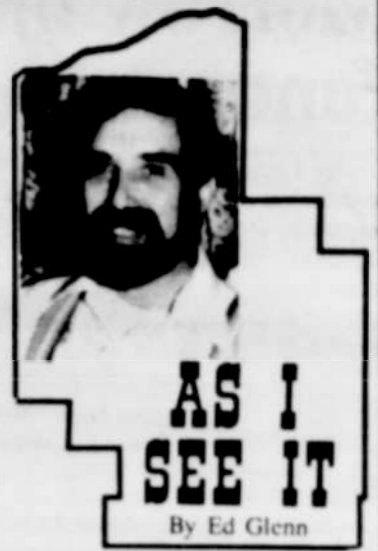
The conflict with negotiations has been difficult and far reaching, creating great suffering in Morrow County. Friendship and support for those who are suffering can be shown in many ways: a smile, a phone call, a word of encouragement, a hug, a note saying you care. Those expressions of friendship and support have been shown to our family these past several weeks from numerous people. By taking the time to let each other know that we care, we can help the healing process that must take place. In the days to follow, may God show each one of us someone to whom we can extend our hand of friendship so that we can bring about unity within our communities.

Love,
(s) The Brownfields
Steve, Nancy, Carr, Amy & Alissa
Brownfield
Heppner

Nintendo's
are in
30 games in stock

Wight's Video & Arcade
147 N. Main, Heppner

Things Are As They Seem



A few weeks ago we posed a few questions about the Port's upcoming bond election that we thought voters would like answered before deciding the issues. Perhaps you will recall.

No single Commissioner could answer them all, no public presentation nor all the printed material satisfied our curiosity. So we spent an hour at the Port office with a couple of staffers, digging through files and records and making calculations, some for the very first time.

We got the information we sought. And then we went to a Chamber of Commerce meeting.

There we found that things are as they seem, not as they really are. The meeting opened with much congratulations, sighs of relief, satisfaction of a job well done. The teachers strike was over, we could put that little problem behind us and go on with business as usual. No matter that no one knew the terms of the settlement, it must be good and wonderful and the absolute end of a minor little problem in life.

A drive to locate a state prison near Boardman was announced. Again, an opportunity for an industry was knocking and the knock must be answered. The state is looking for a site (five actually, from which to choose) for a 500 inmate medium security prison which would employ about 175 year around, well paid state employees. Could be a real economic boost to the community and county we were told.

Only two days before, we had breakfast with the Governor. He wholeheartedly endorsed our economic development strategy to add more value to our agricultural crops. No mention was made in that plan to hinge our economic future on government infrastructure such as a prison.

And then we heard about the upcoming county budget election. Last year's levy was posed as a tax base, which was turned down. But, we were told, the defeated tax base was treated as if it passed and this year's proposed levy is a mere 5.5% greater. This year's levy wouldn't even require a vote if last year's tax base had passed, we were told.

In support of the increase, the great and wonderful economic recovery of the county was extolled. Wheat prices were up a great deal over last year. Cattle prices are now higher than anyone can remember, perhaps higher than they have ever been. A 5.5% increase must therefore be reasonable.

We came away with the distinct impression that things are not always, perhaps not even often, as they really are but rather things are as they seem to be, or can be made to seem to be.

The problems giving rise to the teachers strike are all still there. Education is discredited, teachers as a group are in disrepute, some teachers are generally considered incompetent (and they are still on the payroll), voters are disinclined to support the program with money, the board is fearful of several years of "safety net" budgets and now, what's worse, the teaching staff is worse off than before and the district is in a worse position to attract really good new teachers.

But that's only the way things are. The way they seem to be is "The strike is over, we can put all that behind us now and get on with business as usual."

As I see it, the urgency of knowing the real truth about the Port bond election is gone. It seems fine to the Port Commissioners. It seems good enough to be endorsed by the Chambers of Commerce and by various and sundry organizations and individuals.

None, I believe, understand the way it is. The original purpose was to provide relief to Lamb-Weston on their sewer and water bill so they could continue present employment. The General Obligation Bonds, to be paid for by the taxpayers, would pay off Revenue Bonds which Lamb-Weston is now paying off.

But when you search out the numbers you'll find that the taxpayers will pay \$74,100 every year for 20 years so that Lamb-Weston will save \$48,000 each year for only the next four years. That's not the way it seems, but that's the way it is.

Mr. and Mrs. George Selen and
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Miller
invite you to share in the wedding
of their children
Sheila Ann
and
Reed L.
Saturday, March 25, 1989
at
One O'Clock in the afternoon at the
Christian Church in Culver, Oregon
Reception following

Court Street Market
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WHERE YOUR DOLLAR MAKES MORE CENTS

Fresh	Asparagus	\$1.39 lb.
Fresh	Broccoli	39¢ lb.
Fresh	Tomatoes	59¢ lb.
Fresh	Strawberries	98¢ pint
Bar-S, extra lean, boneless	Ham whole	\$1.00 lb.
Frozen	Turkey's 12 to 20 lbs.	79¢ lb.
Western Family	Mandarin Oranges 11 oz.	55¢ ea.
Pillsbury, all ready	Pie Crust 15 oz.	\$1.89 ea.
Lindsay, large pitted	Olives 6 oz.	\$1.29 ea.
White Supplies Last	Easter Lillies	\$5.50 ea.

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Western Family Pineapple 20 oz. sliced, chunk & crushed 69¢ ea.
Oregon Chief, bone-in Ham (whole) \$1.39 lb.