

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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Letters to the Editor

Chamber urges support for school

To the Editor:
Heppner Chamber of Commerce encourages Morrow County citizens to vote positive in support of the school one-year operating levy. The past should not have an effect on support of our schools. Issues are not

resolved by a no vote. A yes vote is a yes for Morrow County's youth and future citizens.

Sincerely,
(s) Forrest Burkenbine
President Heppner Chamber

Positive change made in beef industry

To the Editor:
More Americans are discovering that beef is back, indicating a positive change for the beef industry. I think you'll agree this is much welcomed news for American beef producers.

Beef is important to our state's economy because it is big business. In 1988, cash receipts in Oregon from cattle and calves totaled \$340 million. And every dollar of cattle sales directly generates an additional \$5 to \$6 of business activity in the farm supply and food businesses.

The recent progress of the beef industry can be attributed to a significant event that occurred on October 1, 1986. On that day, U.S. beef producers became part of the national checkoff program. Through the

checkoff, each producer contributes one dollar for each head of cattle sold. The funds are used for research, education and marketing at the state and national levels. The results have been outstanding. Checkoff-funded programs are a driving force in repositioning beef in our changing society.

June 27, 1989, marks the 1,000th day of the national beef checkoff program—1,000 days of solid progress in the beef industry. The result is a better, more nutritious product for consumers and improved profitability for the biggest single sector of the agriculture economy.

Sincerely,
Reid Johnson, Chairman
Oregon Beef Council
Wallowa, OR

Defense budget going downhill

To the Editor:
We are constantly being told that 50 or 60 percent of federal tax dollars go to defense. This seems to be in the tradition that if you tell a lie often enough, people will believe it.

Ronald Reagan's budget transmitted to Congress in January, 1988 asked 26.2 percent of federal outlays for defense amounts to 5.9 percent of the gross national product for 1988; 5.7 percent for 1989. The defense budget has gone downhill since, and the 1990 and 1991 budgets show more sweeping changes. All the services are intended to have reductions in manpower. Our troops are trained with

broomsticks when World War II started, and died in the Bataan death march and on other Pacific Islands because we had not heeded George Washington's advice: If you want peace, prepare for war.

I hope today's pacifists saw Communism in action in China. Many do not remember the Russian tanks and the bloodshed in Hungary, Czechoslovakia, etc. when they wanted a little freedom. The Berlin wall is still there, and we trust a smiling Gorbachev at our peril.

Sincerely,
(s) Joyce Pahlke
761-6365
13811 S.E. Foster
Portland, OR

Confidence is the bottom line

To the Editor:
Confidence is the bottom line in most human transactions. Much like a loan officer expresses confidence in a loan applicant's ability to repay by granting a loan, a taxpayer expresses confidence in an educational system by passing a tax levy to finance the school district budget. Where there is no confidence, there is no money.

I contend that the recurring failure of school operating levies has been an expression of "no confidence" in the school district. The incessant friction between the school board superintendent, and faculty has created so much instability in the system that passage of an operating levy seems impossible to conceive.

In my mind, a ray of hope is on the horizon. A movement called Fresh Start has begun an effort to remove this pubnicious school board from office. It is my hope that a replacement board will be elected to fulfill the following agenda:

1. Agree with MCEA that Ed Rutledge and Mike Persons have nothing at stake here except their

personal reputations as fighters. Further agree not to use either for negotiations.

2. Hire a superintendent with the ability to promote good will and good education. Mr. McCaslin's history of "no confidence" levy defeats and labor strife indicates to me that he sprinkles sand in the gears instead of greasing the bearings of educational progress.

3. Get this district out of the Safety Net and headed toward the 21st Century. There are kids in school now that will be living there.

The Fresh Start movement has altered my confidence level. With high hopes that a new school administration will be making better use of my tax dollars, I am going to sign the recall petition and cast a yes vote for the June 27th levy attempt.

Sincerely,
(s) Dean Mason
Boardman

P.S. My compliments to Dwayne Carroll for ramrodding the strike-ending agreement through a stubbornly recalcitrant Board.

Landowners snubbed by Salem

To the Editor:
Landowners, in many cases, have absolutely no say as to how their land is to be used. Land conservation and development, LCDC, decides all that for us. The only privilege we, rural landowners, are given under LCDC restrictions, is to struggle to pay the taxes on the land, year after year.

Two bills, Senate Bills 539 and 688, bills designed to give the landowner back a fraction of control, were scheduled to be debated before the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee on May 25, 1989 in Salem.

Many of us traveled hundreds of miles to get there.

Senator Dick Springer opened the discussion and minutes after, conveniently had to leave. Senator Fawbush was in and out, in to vote on the bills he wanted passed, and conveniently out on the land-use

debate. Senator Bill Bradbury didn't bother to show up for anything. Senator Bob Kintigh alone, showed any interest in our problems.

Why was the meeting scheduled if these Senators all had prior commitments?

I feel the meeting was deliberately boycotted by these Senators, because they don't want to deal with the concerns of landowners. By refusing to acknowledge wrongdoing by LCDC, they don't have to fix it.

If these are the kind of representatives we have in Salem, those who run from problems and ignore the fact that they exist, why do we elect them? Hopefully, next election we won't.

Sincerely,
(s) Velma Spores
15432 Hwy 62
Eagle Point, OR 97524
(503) 826-7712

Sheriff's Report

The Sheriff's office at the courthouse annex building in Heppner reports handling the following business during the past week:

June 13: Morrow County dispatched the Heppner ambulance to a residence in Lexington to a report of an unknown illness. One male was transported to Pioneer Memorial Hospital.

June 15: Morrow County deputies responded to a truck/pedestrian fatality at Depoe Road outside of Irri-gon. A five year old boy, Michael Medina, of Irri-gon was backed over by a Sanitary Disposal Truck. The driver was Marlin Reeves, age 35 of Umatilla. The accident is being investigated by the Morrow County Sheriff's office. No citations will be issued.

June 16: Morrow County deputy responded to a report of two male pedestrians on I-84 between Hwy. 730 and Boardman who were endangering themselves and traffic. Deputy contacted subjects and situation was resolved.

June 17: Morrow County deputy began investigation of reported theft of equipment and damage to a field just outside of Heppner.

Morrow County deputy arrested Andrew Lloyd Erickson, 39, Irri-gon for Assault IV (Domestic). Erickson was lodged at Benton County Jail. Morrow County deputy began the investigation of a reckless driving incident. Abel Hernandez-Rodriguez, 24, Boardman, was arrested for Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants and Failure to Perform Duties of a driver.

June 18: Morrow County deputy arrested Jose Juniga Benavides, 32, Boardman on a Umatilla County warrant for Failure to Appear/Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants. Subject was transported to Pendleton and turned over to Umatilla County deputies for lodging at Umatilla County Sheriff's office jail.

Morrow County deputy began investigation of a one-vehicle roll over accident on Upper Willow Creek Road above the dam. There were no injuries.

Morrow County deputy received a report of a theft and began investigation of a burglary in the Irri-gon area. Investigation is to continue.

Morrow County deputy arrested Daniel Armenta, 21, Hermiston for Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants. Armenta was arraigned. During the week of June 12-19, Morrow County deputies assisted one disabled motorist.

Justice Court

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

Stephen Ray Partlow, Boardman-Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants, and Open Container-\$505 fine, go through alcohol rehabilitation program and license suspended 365 days.

Albert Paul Jewell, Monument-No Vehicle License, Expired Trailer License, Expired Truck License, \$185 bail forfeited;

William Edward Douglas, Bryte, CA-Improper Passing, \$66 bail forfeited;

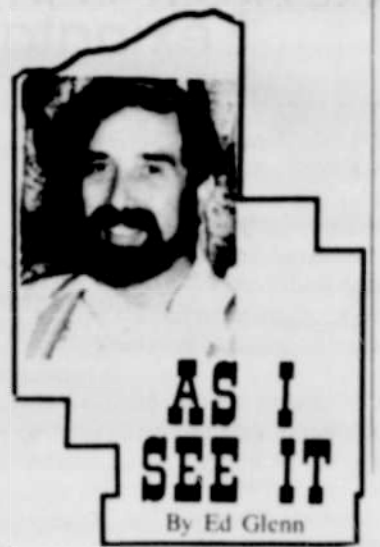
David Roy Moss, LaGrande-Hunting with Aid of Motor Vehicle, \$87 bail forfeited;

Nancy Lou Ekstrom, Ione-Exceeding the Maximum Speed, 70 mph in a 55 mph zone, \$30 fine;

Tony Ephren, Eugene-Hunting from Public Road, \$97 bail forfeited;

Steven Arbogast, Heppner-Assault IV, \$487 fine, one year probation.

Leadership vs. Representation



There's a curious anomaly about that seems to defy explanation. We have been baffled, and have only arrived at a tentative conclusion that we offer with trepidation.

Property taxes, in Oregon, have traditionally financed a wide range of local government services. Schools top the list with roads, police and fire and then the collection of minor services such as parks, transportation and "paperwork" things in descending order.

In Morrow County, voter support for schools has been less than overwhelming. This has the prospect for being our second year in the safety net with tax levies for 1989-90 the same as 1988-89, the same as 1987-88. In that time, the cost for nearly everything has gone up, so with revenues remaining the same, the quantity and quality of the educational offering must necessarily go down.

At the same time, property tax levies for the County (roads, police, "paperwork" services) have gone up significantly to a level among the highest in the state. Three of our cities have tax rates among the highest of all cities in the state.

Morrow County, especially in the cities of Boardman, Irri-gon or Heppner no longer has a "low" tax rate, but rather ranks right up there in terms of total taxes levied compared with other places around Oregon. But unlike the rest of the state we do not chose to spend our tax money heavily on schools and much less on county and city services. In Morrow County we spend proportionately less on schools and much more on county and city programs.

That's the anomaly that's hard to explain. We know that folks in Morrow County are a little "different," if you know what I mean, but that does not seem to explain why we assign roads, police and fire protection, parks and Port districts a much higher value than do our neighbors in either Umatilla or Gilliam Counties, and at the same time assign education much less value than they do.

Tentatively, we think it has to do with leadership. Leadership rather than mere representation.

It is true that we elect a County Court, City Councilmen and School District Directors to "represent" us in the conduct of the business of those entities. But sometimes, no, often, we elect officials that "lead" us as well.

A representative reflects our own opinions, prejudices and attitudes. If we think taxes are too high, so does our representative. If we think we have a lot of bad teachers so do our representatives. If we think economic conditions are recessionary, so do our representatives. The conduct of our public business by representatives is based on our opinions of the way things are.

A leader, on the other hand, has some vision about how things ought to be. Some idea about where we should be at some point in the future and how we're going to get there. A leader will direct us into the future, by saying and doing things that make us want to follow willingly. The conduct of our public business by leaders is based on their vision of the way things ought to be.

This difference was most graphic this past spring when we heard a school director parrot the popularly held opinion that the county economy was not only in recession, but on the verge of depression. Not a week later, we heard the leading county official explain how the economy was improving so rapidly that good times were just around the corner. Sure enough the school tax levy was defeated and the county levy passed, on the very same ballot. We are mesmerized when listening to a city mayor explain why it is necessary to expand city services in order to expand the city tax base in order to spread the cost of those services. That vision leads most city residents to accept a tax rate much higher than most cities.

As I see it, the county and the cities in it have simply outpaced the school district in leadership. They have taken a larger and larger slice of the property tax dollar pie while the school district has been relegated to a smaller and smaller slice. True, the pie has gotten larger, but there is real resistance to much further growth in spite of effective leadership.

Until a school leader surfaces, one with a clear vision of the future, the safety net will have to hold, and the educational opportunity afforded our sons and daughters will continue to slip.

Marriage License

The Clerk's office at the courthouse in Heppner reports issuing the following marriage licenses during the past week:
David Charles Porter, 28, Lexington; and
Susan Marie Wilson Magnus, 28, Lexington.

4-H News

4-H Food Factory
By Melissa McElligott, Reporter
The first and second year members met on June 14. We talked about having a float and bake sale on the 4th of July. We are to be at the M.C.G.G. elevator in Ione at 9:30 a.m. on July 4th. Our next meeting is on July 3. Then we will decorate the float.

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DONT FORGET!
July 3rd the Wagon Train is Coming to Heppner at 11 a.m. There will be a Barbecue at 7:00 p.m.
TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED BEFORE JUNE 27th. They are available through The Chamber of Commerce, Coast to Coast and several other local businesses. Don't miss out on Kessler's Steaks at the fairgrounds. Only \$10.00 for adults there will also be hamburgers available for children 12 & under for \$4.50. Don't miss this opportunity to Savor the Old West's Best!
Ad Sponsored by Cliff & Cindy Green at Coast to Coast

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

Beef Bottom	
Round Steak	\$1.98 lb.
5 flavors Frito Lay	
Potato Chips 6 1/2 oz.	\$1.39 ea.
Tree Top	
Apple Juice 48 oz. all flavors	\$1.29 ea.
Gatorade 64 oz. Armour, pan sized	\$2.19 ea.
Bacon 12 oz. Gold & Soft	\$1.29 ea.
Margarine 1 lb. tub Western Family, small curd	85¢ ea.
Cottage Cheese pint Western Family	79¢ ea.
Half & Half quarts large sized	89¢ ea.
Tomatoes Boneless	69¢ lb.
Pork Chops	\$2.19 lb.

Prices Good June 22nd - 26th
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK - 7 A.M. - 6 P.M.
Court Street Market
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