

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

**Heppner
GAZETTE-TIMES**

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Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper
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Letter to the Editor

Education state's lowest priority

To the Editor:
I am writing this letter to the editor as the superintendent of schools in Perrydale School District No. 21 located in Polk County, Oregon.

I recently had the opportunity to review a document obtained from the legislative fiscal office entitled, "Budget Highlights", that summarizes the legislatively approved 1993-95 budget.

As a school superintendent, I was appalled by the fact that this document shows 40 state agencies out of 71 have received adopted budgets in excess of 1991-93 estimated expenditures, and that one agency, the Department of Human Resources, received a 19.8 percent increase for this biennium.

These increases occurred while State School Support (Basic) received a \$372 million dollar decrease from 1991-93 figures.

How is the legislature going to explain these facts to school people and the parents across our state once these facts are made public? It appears education is the state's lowest priority and yet, children are our state's most important resource for the future.

How is the legislature going to cut an additional \$1.2 billion in

revenue replacement cost in the 1995-97 budget? Will schools and kids be the scapegoat again? Where, when and how is this "slow suffocation" and deterioration of our quality schools going to end?

Reductions in state government that were made appear to be only from "current service" or "desired budget levels" and they do not represent real cuts in people and programs at all. How can I explain this "smoke and mirrors" state budgeting process to the taxpayers in Perrydale School District at a time when we are cutting 24 percent in real dollars and people and programs over the next two years. A loss of this magnitude will devastate our small school district and may even force consolidation.

If you want to know why the sales tax failed across the state, the patrons in my district that I have spoken with said it had a lot to do with people's perceptions of the legislature and state government's credibility.

After reading the Budget Highlights document, I concur with this assessment.

Respectfully yours,
(s) Tim Adsit, superintendent
Perrydale School Dist. No. 21
Amity

Likes to keep in touch

To the Editor:
Dear friends and relatives,
It was wonderful hearing from all of you who have kept in touch with me this last year. I have enjoyed the monthly bulletin that the All Saints Episcopal Church sends each month. My prayers

and blessings are always with you.
Merry Christmas to all and a very happy New Year. Keep writing.

Sincerely,
(s) Marguerite Chapin
3141 N.E. 148th Ave.
Portland, 97230

Day's Unique Boutique 676-9102
Let us do your holiday baking. Orders for Christmas by Dec. 16. Everything for all your holiday needs:
Ornaments • unique gift ideas • gift baskets
decorations • free gift wrapping • delivery in city
289 N. Main

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Comfortable - No Hassle Shopping
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AVOID THE CROWDS

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Teenage smoking remains a problem

To the Editor:

As we get ready to celebrate the Christmas season there are some interesting facts about teenage smoking that might interest all of us. Between 1983 and 1992, the proportion of adults smoking cigarettes declined from 30 percent to 24 percent, a 20 percent reduction. This information, from a Louis Harris poll that has been conducted every year since 1983, confirms other studies documenting the continued slide in adult smoking rates.

However, smoking by our youth has not gone down. In the 1980's it stayed on a stubborn plateau, despite efforts to bring it down. Since 1988, the number of young people smoking cigarettes has begun to increase.

PRIDE (Parents Resource Institute for Drug Education) recently released their annual survey of teenage drug use and it has some bad news. Between 1990-91 and the 1991-92 school

years, there was a seven percent increase in smoking among high school age students and a whopping 12 percent increase at the junior high level.

These findings were corroborated by a study conducted in California by John Pierce. As a result of the multi-million dollar campaign to reduce smoking that was sparked by Proposition 99, adult smoking has declined but unfortunately teenage smoking has not.

Now I realize that not all of our teenagers smoke, but many use other forms of tobacco that are just as dangerous to the health of our young people.

Maybe this Christmas season, one of the best gifts to give our children, and grandchildren, is a creative alternative to smoking cigarettes and use of other forms of tobacco.

Sincerely,
(s) Rev. Stan Hoobing
Convener of Heppner-Lexington
Oregon Together

**Seeks others who share same experience
Pride in electorate again justified**

To the Editor:

My pride in the Oregon electorate has once again been justified. The way in which the sales tax was defeated should send a message loud and clear to those who keep trying to burden the taxpayer with proposals to develop an elite society of bureaucrats and theocrats. With the OSEA and the OEA amuck in Salem, it would be nearly impossible for the legislators to

operate without doing homage to their demands. When those lobby's have the ability to dictate conditions, it's time the voters bear arms.

I have received many favorable comments about a recent "letter", concerning a flat-tax proposal. It's not new, just ignored. Perhaps now it may get some consideration.

As to the other half of the tax liability we share, property tax. This tax was designed to give each local community (in Oregon the counties), a method where local governments (i.e. county, cities and local schools) would be financed. It became a reasonable way to pay for those services, by taxing the property values within that jurisdiction.

Then came "equalization" whereby the wealthier school districts were mandated to help "equalize" the not so wealthy. Seemed fair. Unfortunately equalization has come to mean, not equal education, but salaries of the educators to be equal to attorney's, doctors, etc. and lobbies like OEA that have the electorate so unwilling to trust their government.

How many ways are there to remind our legislators that it's time for everyone to tighten their belts. I had a teacher complain to me about the way the kids have been "betrayed" by the sales tax vote and I couldn't help but remark, "It's always the kids who are held hostage, isn't it?" I'll bet a couple years in the timber industry would change the attitude of that teacher.

(s) Loren M. Seibert
Dallas

**Justice Court
Report**

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

Jody Lea Hendricks, 22, Irrigon-Driving While Suspended, \$357 fine; Driving Uninsured, \$25 fine;

Teddy J. Finch, 52, St. Helens-Open Fire in Prohibited Area, \$76 fine;

Stacy Lee Wilson, 19, Lexington-Failure to Dim Headlights, \$50 fine;

Bill J. Eubanks, 71, Oregon City-No Bull Elk Tag, \$65 fine; Alvin D. Ferguson, 44, Albany-No Bull Elk Tag, \$65 fine;

Thomas Jackson Melton, 18, Corvallis-Loaning Tag for Big Game Mammal, Elk, \$65 fine; Charley Clint Biggerstaff, 47, Irrigon-Hunting Without a Valid General Season Elk Tag, \$65 fine;

Billy Gene Melton, 58, Hermiston-Failure to Tag Big Game Mammal, Elk, \$57 fine; Borrowing Tag for Big Game Mammal, Elk, \$65 fine; Mark Duane Way, 27, Heppner-Careless Driving, \$264 fine;

Michael Robison, Heppner-Negotiating Bad Check, \$587 plus \$187.37 restitution, 180 days in jail; \$500 fine and jail sentence suspended with no further violation of the law, no more bad checks;

Kenneth Pearson, 32, Portland-Possession of Less Than One Ounce of Marijuana, \$553 fine; Gregory Soumokil, 29, Beaverton-Possession of Less Than One Ounce of Marijuana, \$553 fine;

David Miller, 31, Ione-Reckless Driving, \$587 fine, 180 days in jail, 90 day license suspension; \$150 fine and jail sentence suspended with no further violation of the law excluding minor traffic.

Market Report

Compliments of the Morrow County Grain Growers

Tuesday, December 14, 1993

Soft	White
Dec.	\$3.63
Jan.	\$3.64/\$3.65
Feb.	\$3.67
March	\$3.67

	New crop
July	\$3.55
Aug.	\$3.55

	Barley
Dec.	\$1.03
Jan.	\$1.05/\$1.06
Feb.	\$1.07

Off the Wall By Meryn Robinson

With the flu in the air, I hope everyone had a flu shot. Nothing puts a crimp in the holidays like sickness. That vaccination can't protect one from the intestinal bug which fortunately doesn't last long—even though it leaves a body purged like a cat overdosed with castor oil.

Once I realized that the very least effort during that affliction wasn't going to be my last thought, it leaves quality thinking time, because you're usually too weak for decisive action. My best thought in two days was a vow to be kinder to others who are stricken. I heartily recommend not to dwell about Christmas goodies that you might have been planning to make, even if it's lean cuisine. But just like the December caption on the Lex Graham calendar, at my age I don't worry about health food as I need all the preservatives I can get—just to function.

This minor setback did leave me with a finer appreciation of fresh water, regardless of minerals or other things I can't see. Home wells are not often tested, so it's surprising that we've lived this long. No doubt that will be mandatory in the future, with a fee attached, of course.

This leads into water and owner issues, sneaky, huh? It's a fact that who controls the water controls the land. So with the government stepping in to tell us how to manage water, maybe we'll be rationed to three glasses per day.

A printed statement said the cooperative spirit of the Umatilla Basin water project could be shattered by a disagreement over the "smaller issue" of water spreading. If this person's livelihood or his job was dependent on the use of water on 17,500 acres along the Columbia River, it might create quite a different opinion.

Already the draw-down of the John Day dam pool has had an impact on agriculture that generates taxes to support our country. Wastefulness can't be ignored, but a downturn in the agricultural economy could have a disastrous result for everyone. People might be upset if there were no food in grocery stores.

Hermiston is trying to develop more water for a growing population based from our agricultural economy. But there are other concerns. Indian treaty rights of 1885 guarantee enough water in the Umatilla, Columbia and even beyond ceded land—to sustain a healthy fishery. Every river and creek that run into this basin could be impacted by those treaty rights. Private landowners are already seeing adjudication for the use of water in all river basins.

Small potatoes in the overall picture, but the DEQ termed a dry canyon in our area as an intermittent stream; however a toad couldn't wet his whistle there except during a flash flood. But if all streams and canyons are to be fenced off to improve fish habitat, livestock could not utilize forage without convenient access to water. A concentrated access to water causes more stream sedimentation and destruction to the eco-system than access over a larger area. Disastrous storms, wildlife damage or drought conditions are factors that land owners constantly battle.

We can't turn this country back to pioneer days. If cattle ranchers are reduced to a few cows and a horse or two, maybe they can eke out a living dude ranching by catering to those who would like to turn the west into a wilderness. Wallowa County Judge Arleigh Isley said it best at the cattlemen's meeting—"We're at war" to preserve a way of life and the region's economy. Pass the water and an aspirin, please, it's time to make Christmas fudge.

Dec. 18:

Tom & Jerry Party 6:30-9 p.m.

Dec. 31:

Gala New Year Celebration, dining 6-9 p.m.
Music 9-? p.m.

**Bingo every Wednesday 7:30 p.m.
Dining Fri. & Sat. nights 6-9 p.m.**

*Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year to all*

Heppner Elks 358
676-9181 "Where Friends Meet" 142 N. Main

Court Street Market

111 N. Court Heppner 676-9643

GROCERIES - MEATS - PRODUCE
Prices good Dec. 15th - 24th

Family 2 liter Coca Cola	79¢ + dep.	Boneless Pork Loin Roast	\$3⁰⁰ lb.
Western Family 8 oz. Cream Cheese	Reg. 99¢ 75¢	Beef Prime Rib Roast	\$3⁴⁹ lb.
Western Family Frozen 8 oz. Whipped Topping	Reg. 99¢ 59¢	Celery	29¢ lb.
Western Family sliced 12 oz. American Cheese	Reg. \$2 ⁹⁹ \$1⁶⁹	Carrots 2 lb. cello pack	59¢ bag
Western Family 16 oz. Snack Crackers	99¢	Yams Jumbo size	29¢ lb.
Western Family 2 lb. Raisins	Reg. \$2 ⁹⁹ \$2¹⁹	Potatoes 10 lb. bag	\$1¹⁹
Western Family 20 oz. Pineapple	Re. \$1 ¹⁵ 89¢	Western Family 6 roll pack Bathroom Tissue	Reg. \$1 ⁷⁹ \$1¹⁹
Western Family 16 oz. Green Beans	Reg. \$1 ⁰⁹ 2 for 79¢	Western Family 12 in x 25 ft. Aluminum Foil	Reg. 89¢ 55¢
Golden Prairie Boneless unsliced 1/2 Ham	\$1⁷⁹ lb.	Closed Christmas Day Close at 4 Christmas Eve	
Hills Sliced Bacon	\$1⁰⁹ lb.		